Tuesday April 2 1996

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INTERNATIONAL 1 ne Guaro

Montana: another Waco?



Looking for the feminist middle ground

Michael White Political Edito

Britain.

Rights after a series of embar

influence of the court.

would be to give governments the informal right to vet

judges nominated from other

Countries would also get

started talks with embassie

whose governments send

judges to the Strasbourg

pased commission and court.

in accordance with regional

The declared aim is "to pro-

and national perceptions."



Europe-wide offensive after embarrassing rulings

curb on rights

Education Have students become squares?

G2 pages 10/11

G2 with European weather



The wife of the Birmingham pensioner Charles Stanton, who yesterday lost an 18-year legal fight with neighbours over a 25ft-high garden hedge, speaks to reporters through her letterbox Beating about the bush, page 3 PHOTOGRAPH: BEN HEAD

Police win stop and search power

Patrick Wintour, Chief

WEEPING police powers to stop and search in the streets are to be extended from Northern Ireland to mainland Britain in a surprise five-part package to be rushed through the Commons today with Labour front

bench support. As many as 25 Labour backbenchers are likely to defy Tony Blair, arguing that the emergency measures, to be introduced by the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, are a draconian return to the dis-

The Liberal Democrat dep- the IRA are transporting in- is the Government's duty to

his party would vote against the guillotine, claiming that railroading such a complex bill through Parliament in one day was bound to lead to "defective and ineffective

Mr Howard first told Opposition parties last Thursday of his plans to rush the ammendments to the Prevention of Terrorism Act on to the statute book.

Jack Straw, the shadow home secretary, has been given intelligence and police briefings to convince him that the new powers must be on the statute book by Easter. Intelligence sources believe

ering a return to violence after a byelection in Southern Ireland today in which Sinn Fein are likely to do badly.

Mr Straw has subsequently held intense consultations in an attempt to persuade the rebels, including the former shadow Northern Ireland sec retary Kevin McNamara,

sures. But he appears to have failed. In the Commons, Mr How-ard said the proposals had been sought by the police after the end of the IRA ceasefire. He added: "We face a clear threat from terrorism. It

uty leader. Alan Beith, said | candiary devices as small as | take every step possible to his party would vote against | cassettes and may be consid- | meet that threat." The package will give police powers to stop and search any pedestrian, including shoes and outer

Any policeman will be able to search hat, clothes, gloves, or outer coat, whether or not he has grounds for believing the pedestrian is carrying a terrorist-related device. Refusal to co-operate could lead to a six-month jail

At present, the police have powers to search pedestrians' baggage, or search an individual in a vehicle.

The police will also have turn to page 2, column 3

Britain's secret war in Bosnia

Ed Vulliamy reveals how squaddies took on the militias at a cost never admitted

RITISH soldiers in Bosnia fought a covert ion, the Prince of Wales' Own Yorkshire Regiment, the three sides in the conflict be fighting became so intense tween 1993 and last year, kill- that its camp or "Britbat" being Croat, Muslim and Serb troops in far greater numbers than has been admitted by

scribed as "shooting inci-dents" or "exchanges of fire".

Inside

During a tour by one battal-ion, the Prince of Wales' Own came known as "Shootbat".

The Ministry of Defence is unable to give figures for op-posing forces killed by British The firefights were waged troops serving under the United Nations flag. Unlike in tion. sniper and missile Uster, soldiers are neither attacks on British patrois and convoys. The incidents were kill. One officer said: "If you officially played down, de fire at a sniper from 300

and wander into a minefield ... You have to presume someone is dead because of the accuracy of the gun". UN and MoD sources have estimate that 38 local militia-

men were killed in central Bosnia between October 1992 and February 1994, when the British found themselves in the middle of a war between Croats and Muslims. But other estimates suggest the Yorkshires alone killed between 40 to 50 Croats, and up

to 30 Muslims. The Guardian today pub-lishes the first detailed account of how British forces in Bosnia were forced into a

World News

Uganda is being

terrorised by the Lond's Resistance

Army which has

killed 250 civilians

and abducted

trooper from the Coldstream Guards, which succeeded the Yorkshires, said: "You can add a nought to that."

By taking on the militias, British units were the only

UN forces in Bosnia to en-force the UN Security Council's aid delivery mandate. The Yorkshires set an unbeaten record of delivering to its destination every UN convoy that entered their terrain. Other British operations were more secretive and more deadly. Undercover SAS patrols were moving unoffi-

turn to page 3, column 1 Boenia's secret war, page 7

A call by the

labour standards

European Commission

for minimum global

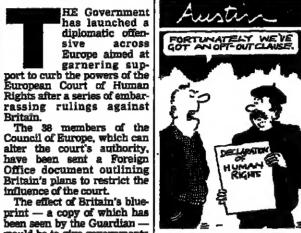
cially behind Serhian lines.

culling is also contemplated. cent of compensation to farmers, Mr Hogg said, the govern-ment would pay the rest. It would be a "significant measure which would go a long way to removing the prob-lem", he said. But despite Mr Hogg's call

for the ban on exports of British beef and beef products to be lifted "as quickly as poss-

wrongly jailed for not pe

linisters seek



High profile reverses that provoked action THE UK has been found | Traveller Stephen Benha guilty of 38 human rights violations out of 79 ing community charge. - a worse record September 1988: Sever teen children compensate

> □ March 1996: Journalist wins fight to protect secrecy of sources.

than any other nation. Another 14 cases are pending.

☐ February 1996: Court rules Michael Howard has no right to specify term to be served by child killers. □ September 1995: Court

rules against government over SAS Gibralter shootings of three IRA terrorists.

☐ January 1995: Court rules

notice of impending controversy and the right to insist that greater account be taken of differing democratic traditions — a judicial form of the European Union doctrine of citheidistics. tions — a judicial form of the European Union doctrine of substidiarity.

As the Prime Minister walks the tightrope between his pro-European and sceptical factions, FO officials have appeal against British courts' refusal to acknowledge that he should be entitled to pro-

The key passage in the FO memorandum says: "Account disclosure. The decision means the Government will should be taken of the fact that democratic institutions have to change the 1981 Con-tempt of Court Act. and tribunals in member states are best placed to deter-mine moral and social issues

Britain might leave the court, which was established shortly after the second world war to promote human rights in a ravaged and divided conmote fairness and to ensure that the Strasbourg institu-tions take all factors into

The paper sent to member that governments make ar-states suggests that Malcoim rangements "for exchanging Hugo Young, page 9

account". No direct reference is made to Whitehall's "concern about some recent judgments" — cases which have which is due to see its lower than the court, which is due to see its lower than the court. body, the commission, merged into a single court

many cases would be resolved at national level. No substantive response

has yet been received to the Rifkind initiative which stresses that Britain is "a strong supporter" of the convention. It urges improve-John Major has hinted that ments, starting with "a new stritain might leave the court, rule under which [the court] would make known its main areas of concern in writing early enough for these to be addressed at hearings".

Whitehall also proposes

informally the names of any nominees as judges for the court before they are tabled" so that their views can be taken into account.

after court rules they should

not have been caned withou parents' permission.

☐ March 1988: Court rules

detaining terrorist suspects

four to seven days without bringing them before judge

☐ May 1985: Three women

successfully challenge im-

migration laws which with-

hold automatic entitlement to bring their

husbands to Britain.

The Government argues that the court's "doctrine of the margin of appreciation already gives weight to national diversity, 'particu-larly on those moral and social issues where the view vention on Human Rights of what is right may legitimately vary

It wants that doctrine applied more consistently with 'full regard paid to decisions by democratic legisla-tures and to differing legal

traditions". Long-standing laws and practices should be respected – even when they are "manifestly contrary" to the

The court is not linked to the EU and its judicial ma-chinery, the European Court

of Justice in Luxembourg.

Hogg begs EU for beef cull cash

Julie Wolf in Luxembourg, Owen Bowcott

HE Agriculture Minister, Douglas Hogg, yes-terday pleaded with the European Union to foot 80 per ent of the bill for slaughter ing up to 4.7 million British cows in the next six years

with the aim of eradicating At an emergency meeting of EU farm ministers in Luxembourg. Mr Hogg outlined plans to slaughter all cattle aged over 30 months when they come to the end of their working lives, and to remove

The accelerated culling would involve the deaths of 15,000 cows a week and is expected to cost as much as £5 billion. Further selective

their meat from the food

If the EU financed 80 per

indicated that more radical action was required. European farm ministers ruled out an early end to the export ban. "It should be

lifted when we have a total guarantee that there is no risk. It is difficult to imagine that this will be in the next 24 hours," the French agricul-ture minister, Philippe Vasseur, said. Several farm ministers

several larm ministers viewed Britain's proposal for 80-per-cent EU funding as merely an opening bid. "it's a basis for discussion." the The German minister, Jo-

chen Borchert, said the EU's participation in Britain's programme should be similar to the 50-per-cent to 70-per-cent given to Germany and other member states to combat recent epidemics of swine

At Westminster, John Major said the Government was considering a novel way of identifying cattle with BSE, or those most suspectible.

Increasingly optimistic that confidence is creeping back into the domestic market. ministers are believed to be looking at ways to identify cattle that have been fed on grass, not recycled sheep and

ible", EU countries yesterday | Poor cows, G2 pages 4 and 5

Comment and Letters 8 Obligaries 10

Crossword 15; Weather 16; Radio 16; Television 16



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Britain

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The FA has ordered

a partial review

of ticket pricing

after 10,400 fans

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ATURDAY I took roung son to a foot-match. It's rite of ce whether they want

he pitch, which isn't too be pitch, which isn't too b wangle at Wimbledon arch itself was unexcitnd much criticised in the rs. But what struck me any years away was from close up — how as-shingly fast, flerce and demined the professional me is even at Wimbledon. pondered this yesterday moon while sitting a simitance from the players n the House of Commons. There they are, right in front of you, the premiership of poliicians: you can hear the

groans and the graints, watch the emotions on their faces switch from exhilaration to despair, share the transient inguish and the joy. Well, up to a point. The only thing the Commons chamber had in common with Selhurst

Park (Wimbledon's temporary home) was the absence of a The Prime Minister was reporting on the Turin meeting of European leaders, an event which could affect our lives for decades, and there was a total of 24 Labour backbenchers present. There were a few more Tories, but not

As for hard, straining, professional dedication — there wasn't much of that either. This was an end of season, middle-of-the-table fixture between two teams who have little chance of scoring but can't

be relegated, worse luck. Mr Major made his stateent. It was downbeat, bored. lacklustre, "The negotiations themselves will now begin. They may well last for a year or longer." ("Or perhaps for ever," someone cried despairingly.) "Foreign ministers will meet every month. Their

personal representatives will meet every week . . ." An eternity of tedium stretched ahead. He made working in the EU sound like a season ticket for Arsenal. Then he gave his account of the summit. Curiously, to go by this and similar narra tions, he seems to be the only person present. Nobody else has a role, except to agree with

has a role, except to agree with what Mr Major says.

"I outlined" the Government's approach. "I also set out" areas where the UK would be making proposals. "I underlined", well, he underlined an awful lot of things.

When there was a policy When there was a policy which hadn't been outlined, set out or underlined, "I made clear my particular concern' (on the European Court). Later, "I sald", "I set out" (again) and "I made clear"

As for the beef crisis, "I told my colleagues", "I suggested" and finally "I emphasised". How did Europe react to this outbreak of the upright pronoun? With compl agreement, we learned. "The response of my European coltion, one of support. There

was universal agreement... Other European leaders go unmentioned. They exist only as an audience, occasionally permitted to murmur their agreement with whatever Mr Major happens to make clear. underline or emphasise.

The questions which follow allow him to expand on this. The recent history of Europe for instance on social costs
 has consisted largely of our colleagues realising the error of their ways and the wisdom

It isn't a statement. It isn't a report to our representatives about what is being agreed on

It's fantasy football. The Prime Minister is a schoolboy kicking a stone along the street. He shoots! He scores! The crowd rises to its feeti (Or in Majorspeak, responds, without exception, with universal agreement...)

Finally, Tony Banks asked us to spare a thought for vic-tims of Mad Premier Disease me old cow has given her life delivering milk for human beings, and finds herself with a bolt through her neck and chucked on a fire.

"I know there is a political equivalent, but it's none the better for that."

Firms may be forced to compete

HE Government yesterday an-nounced what it first step in the gradual introduction of competition into the water industry, in an attempt to smash the last utility monopoly.

Labour attacked the move

which will initially apply only to large industrial cus-tomers — as inadequate. The private water supply compa-nies agreed it would have a "limited impact" on domestic customers, and accused the Government of using the industry as "a political weapon" in the runup to the eral election.

Announcing publication of a consultation paper yesterday, the environment secretary, John Gummer, said:
"Competition is the best guarantee for consumers that they receive value for money, better services and lower prices. The Government is looking to petition in the water industry within a strong regulatory framework, designed to ensure effective protection and enhanced water quality."

environment secretary, said: "This proposal ... falls far short of what the Prime Min-ister promised the Tory conference in Harrogate on Saturday. Then, he said: 'We're going to introduce competi-tion into the water industry." How they all clapped. He didn't say it would only apply to large industrial customers. But that's all Mr Gummer is

talking about today."
Under the plan, large companies will be able to choose their water supplier, but the scheme is fraught with problems because of the huge cost of carrying water in the absence of a national "grid".

It also proposes arrange-ments under which one water company would deliver water opens the way for new suppli-ers to sell water to big users. Ofwat, the industry regulator, said 15 companies had already applied to get their water from new sources.

Pamela Taylor, chief execu-tive of the Water Companies Association, which repre-sents the 18 water supply companies which have always been in the private sector, said: "The Government's proposals will have limited impact on those domestic cus-



Testing the water. . . Ministers say their plans would allow big customers to choose suppliers as the first step to competition in the water industry

comers who have been affected by privatisation of the water industry. If competition is to be introduced, it should be to the benefit of all customers. Moving water around down? costs money.

"Today's announcement comes in the runup to a general election, when the water industry is being used as a political weapon. The Government is unlikely to have time to introduce the legislation." A spokesman for the Water trade "umbrella group" for the privatised water companies, said: "The Govern ment's paper raises a whole range of complex technical

and regulatory issues which the industry is happy to ad-vise on. What is clear ... is that the nation's water plies are too important to take risks with, and any moves to extend competition should certainly be evolutionary."

How the changes will filter through

WILL water bills come

Not for residential customers. Industrial users of more than 250 megalitres (about 55 million gallons) a year may be able to buy water cheaper but a lot will depend on where they are. Water companies fear domestic bills could go up if they lose big customers. infrastructure and overheads in line with reduced demand.

Will the proposals end water shortages'

Only if companies are driven to become more effi-cient through fear of losing big customers. The industry loses about 25 per cent of its water through leakage in its pipes, while a further 5 to 7 per cent is lost through leaks in customers' pipes. Companies may be encouraged to cent per cent of water sup- local privatised water and may notice a change.

construct pipelines or pump-ing stations for getting water from neighbouring water

Will this create a national water grid similar to the national electricity grid and British Gas's pipeline network?

costly to pump around the country. Water companies' mergy bills are bad enough, just for pumping water in their own areas.

Weish Water, for example, spends half as much again on storing and pumping water around its network as on abstracting and treating it.

Will water leakage be

plies are metered, so companies do not know how much or where water is being lost Figures are all estimates. Any ommon carriage agreement would have to estimate how much water was being lost and who was responsible.

Will it improve water ponsibility of the company delivering it to the tap. It would be difficult to pin down responsibility for below-standard drinking water if

Will it lead to increased competition? Only for a few big compa-

companies in its area should increase. In the loager term, more domestic customers will be able to get supplies from neighbouring water companies as industrial concerns pay for the construction of cross-border pipelines.

Will the taste be affected by Yes, but only in a small number of areas near the points where water from different areas mixes. An indus-trial customer in the north of various companies were the Severn Trent area who orders water from the Thames Water area will contributing to a common receive all its water from Seving near the point where Thames Water pumps its water into Severn Trent's network may receive a mix and

Review

Learning to live on an actor's wits

Stuart Jeffries **Acting with Richard Wilson**

HE PROSPECT of watching actors improvising is not a happy one. After all, an actor without a script is

like a police officer without a lead - full of sound and fury that signifies nothing, but up-sets many. Or, at least, that is plans thrown on their own wits are people thrown on the most threadbare of resources. But even though Acting with Richard Wilson often felt like six actors in search of a

character, the programme proved entertaining, and sur-prisingly informative. Wilsterclass on improvisation helped viewers as much as the young actors to understand what the press release ponderously billed "the essence of truthful acting". Believability is the test. If anyone says of a performance "I don't believe it" (and, thankfully, Wilson didn't), it's not

time to give up the day job.
Wilson isn't exactly Stanis-laysky, but holds similar
views about how an actor
should suggest a character without declamatory grand-standing. "The best thing that you can give me today is the feeling that those who are watching are eavesdropping, he declaimed. "That's what good acting to me is; that we good acting back to be are not sitting back to be entertained or moved or any-thing. We have to listen, and the more open you are the

more we will listen." Eavesdropping? The worst improvisations felt as though we were slowing down to sur-

Chris Mihiil Medical Correspondent

ANEW light machine the size of a household toaster could revolutionise the treat-

ment of some forms of skin cancer — at a tenth of the price of laser therapy.

Portable new light machine may help cure skin cancer

cancer — at a tenth of the price of laser therapy.

The device emits an intense beam of light which with light hospital out-patient depart-

sensitive cream can destroy ments or in GPs' surgeries.

vey a car crash. In one, an actor was required to invent a scene in a room with only a newspaper, a phone and a bottle of mineral water for props. She paced, she drank some water, she flicked through the paper, she drank. she paced, she made a phone call, she paced, she flicked, she drank. It reminded me of something I saw in an upstairs room off Camden High Street. There was just me, him, the Highland Spring and a big cloud of mutual embarrass

ment, and it should have been

called the Loneliness of the

Long-Distance Pub Theatre

But, this improvisation wa instructive because we had eavesdropped on someone who had failed to create an imaginative world for us to observe, or, worse, created a world which we glimpsed occasionally through the apparent gaps in the actor's concentration.

It was equally edifying when two men were asked to suggest a violent confrontation armed with a chair and a newspaper. The two actors quickly slipped into a collec-tion of macho tics—the trun-cated body language of the cop show character actor. Wilson was impressed by the stroking was impressed by the stroking of the rolled newspaper that was supposed to serve as trun-cheon, but have we not seen this testosterone fuelled gesture too often for it to carry

conviction?
But there was no disgrace for the actors in any of this. Far from a backslapping darling fest, this programme showed actors learning from showed actors learning from their mistakes, Learning thankfully the only L-word in

cancer cells, scientists said

yesterday. The experimental device has been tried on more

than 100 patients with differ

ent types of skin cancer and has achieved a success rate of

between 80 and 100 per cent. The lamp, invented by sci-

Captain Tyrant of Star Trek

E MADE women swoon with desire, staged the first inter-racial kiss on television, converted thousands of anoraked viewers on both sides of the Atlantic into besotted Trekkies and still had time to stuff the

But behind the suavely authoritative character of Captain Kirk of the Star-ship Enterprise lay an actor with a darker reputation. His skin-tight trousers and hint of paunch may have oozed sexuality, but in real life William Shatner was regarded by fellow Star Trek actors as a petty

first episode of the inter-ga-lactic series was broadcast, it has been revealed that Shatner was held in consnamer was neid in con-tempt by the theatrical crew. Behind his back, they dubbed him a little Napo-leon or "Captain Quirk". The actor, now 65, said he was shocked to discover the impression he left or colimpression he left on colleagues when he inter-viewed them for a book he



William Shatner: 'I though it was all going rather well'

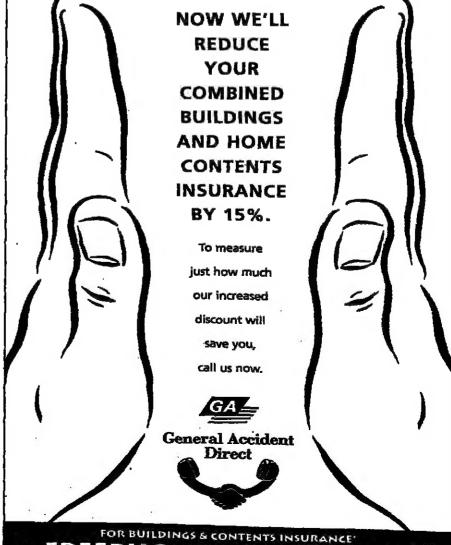
Memories. "I thought it was all going rather well. Perhaps I'm blind -- I have tunnel vision when I'm trying to make a show as good as possible," he said. Nichelle Nichols who played Lieutenant Uhura the communications officer with the peculiar ear-piece

rather, James Doohan, the actor who played the chief engineer — went further, disclosing that if he'd had his way he would have beamed Shatner up into outer space and left him there. He called him a "big

The portrayal of the man behind the Kirk screen legend, admitted by Shainer himself in an interriew with Radio Times this week, has not wholly sur-prised the devoted army of Trekkies. Rumours have circulated for years of tension between the the cap-tain and his rank-and-file. "Kirk was very central to the first series of classic Star Trek, and he always got the girls — that might have created some resent-ment," said Bob Benton, who will be compering a Trekkie convention at the Royal Albert Hall over the

Easter weekend to be attended by Shatner. Tim Gaskill, who heads the official British Star Trek fan club, said Shat-ner's behaviour off camera with the peculiar ear-piece with whom Captain Kirk had that historic kiss — turned on Shainer and said: "Now I want to tell you why I despise you."

Good old Scotty — or Trek ian club, said Shainer's behaviour off camera mattered not a jot. "What counts is that the show was great — who cares whether he ate lunch alone or with the rest of the cast?"



Police to get new stop and search powers

continued from page 1 full powers of arrest if they have reason to suspect a device is secreted on inner

This will enable them to common law, but instead be make widescale searches of lock-up garages in search of bomb-making equipment and well as to impose total parkbomb-making equipment and bomb-carrying vehicles.

ing restrictions.
In a taste of the rebellion ahead today, Mr McNamara

vice is secreted on inner clothes, or find illegal drugs.
Liberty, the civil liberties group, said the bill invited police to stop and search pedestrians on the pretence of a possible link, but in reality in a random search for drugs.
In the second most controversial measure, the police will be given powers to search non-residential property.

bomb-making equipment and bomb-carrying vehicles.
At ports, police on the mainland and in Northern lreland will be given the right to search unaccompanied freight, a power at present confined to Customs officers.

Finally, Mr Howard proposes that police should no longer need to rely on the to vote against the measure." said: "To carry this legisla-tion through, subject to a guil-lotine on the penultimate day examination and the opportu-nity to take outside advice, would be sufficient grounds

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Maggie O'Kane on

£100,000 beating about a bush

the heads off seven giant garden conifers. It was the climax of an 18-

year battle between two Birmingham pensioners one obsessed with getting sunlight on to his prize-winning garden, the other with privacy.
It began with shar

lyard Croft and escalated into a £100,000 courtroom peeping Toms" and hose-pipe attacks. The court finally ruled for a man's

right to sunlight.
The vanquished 88-year old, Charles Bernard Stanton, a retired engineer, marked the implementation of a court order to cut 12 feet off the top of his 25-foot trees with a cardboard coffin outside his front door. Mr Stanton's epitaph to his trees read: "RIP My lovely trees, whose gentle green fronds have so nobly



Charles Stanton (right) and the tribute to his trees placed on a mock coffin outside his house

secret pruning sessions.

'vandal" in the garden.

ous Michael, also 67, served cheese and onion rolls and raspberry gateaux to the 30 journalists and six TV cameras who came to witness

"It's all a terrible waste of money but it was Mr Stanton who went into the courts in the first place. We didn't want this to be dragged into the courts. Mr Jones and I will not be bullied," said Mrs Jone



Mr Jones, who held both Stanton tried to hose her down through the hedge.: first and third prize in the annual Bournville Village Trust garden competition, began stealing into his gar-den at dawn, in a blue tow-elling dressing gown, for they had planted the trees ulars from the first floor sewing room. Mrs Jones says her only sin was The police were called by Mr Stanton to deal with the

ching a rare albino star-

Cupressocyparis Lylandii

Blake sued over

□ The Leyland Cypress is the single biggest cause of gardening disputes between neighbours, according to research by the BBC programme Gardeners

☐ It is the fastest growing tree in Britain and can reach 100 feet in the right conditions.

overshadowed his £100,000 and soft fruits under cover swift. Injunctions came fly-home and garden. of an umbrella because Mr ing across the fence for criminal damage and over the next seven years they The Stantons insisted notched up £100,000 in they had planted the trees legal fees. The Joneses won to protect their privacy from the Joneses who were watching them with binoc-

I've never seen anything like it," said Barry Kenwood," the tree surgeon who started shearing yessoftened my gaze against Throughout the 1980s. But Mrs Jones gave the ugly reality beyond."

Beyond, Maureen Jones, deacher. watched with less thanks and explained less thank

topher Lloyd describes the Leylandia as an extremely useful tree "if you want to blot out your neighbour quickly.

☐ It grows at the rate of

exceptional in that it

grows all year round.

☐ The distinguished

gardening writer Chris-

Guardian through her let-ter box yesterday that her husband would not be making any comment.

"Yes, he is under stress, but this has been going on for years. Today is washing

Mrs Stanton told the

day. I will be doing my washing and we will be get-

foot tree tips. Mr Stanton has warned Mr Jones that

New issue OUT NOW!



"One million cash? It's just paper."



...Or so says **Dolores O'Riordan** of The Granberries. This month, "Bono's little sister" opens her hobnailed pixie heart to Q-exclusively-and talks frankly of bed, bank accounts and bad boyfriends: "I'm pig-headed and stubborn and I love to do things a certain way."

Rock Follies! From David Bowie to

Dylan to Dalis Car, we name the 50 albums that should never have been made ...

A SO! Five hours of New York nookie with Sting, 60 years of singing, scandal and sorrow with Pavarotti, three weeks of transatlantic trousering with **Oasis**, and a deluge of debauchery with Led Zeppelin.



Celine Dion! Edwyn Collins! Sleeper! Tori



In the world's first marinated reviews

section: Mark Knopfler, ABC, Take





Missing toddler found dead

Boy drowned in rubbish-filled ditch, writes Duncan Campbell

who went missing from a travellers' site on Sunday afternoon was found in a 9ft deep ditch yesterday. 10 yards from where he was last seen. John Bristow apparently fell in and was trapped in the water under a

His body was found at 3.55pm yesterday by a police diver during a second search of the Running Watergate site in Lydd, Kent, where the 21month-old boy and his family

The child was reported missing on Sunday afternoon. There were fears that he had been abducted, and a large op-eration was launched by Kent

Divers, a helicopter, mem-bers of the family and local volunteers searched the area throughout the night. Among the places searched was the ditch where the body was

Detective Chief Inspector Andrew Felton of Kent police who headed the investi said vesterday that the body had been found close to when John was last seen. The ditch was full of dirty water and rubbish, and it appeared that he child had been trapped by

Chief Inspector Feiton said



John Bristow: found just 10 yards from where last seen

was taken to a local hospital

"It is believed he was that the ditch was about \$\text{st} t\ deep and full of dirty water, old iron and rubbish. The body was fully clothed, and three or four feet," said Mr

Felton. "He was found by a police diver who, as you can probably understand, is feeling a little bit traumatised at the whole process." the whole process."
He added that his sympathy

was with the family over thi "very, very traumatic inci-dent". He defended the police search operation in response to questions as to how the boy had not been noticed in the initial trawl of the site.

'What I would want to say is this: we have conducted an extremely thorough search,"
he said. "Last night officers
were engaged until three in
the morning in temperatures
below freezing trying to conduct a search.

"When we last had the div-ing team here just imagine what the circumstances were wedged beneath some old iron and rubbish that's actually underneath the surface some absolutely pitch black," he

MI6 memoirs Alex Bellos EORGE Blake, the former double agent, of confidence. should not receive "Firstly a d

though they did not disclose any secret information, it was argued in the High Court

In a case which has far-reaching implications for all Crown servants who seek to publish autobiographical material, the Government claimed Mr Blake should self an unauthorised profit." forfeit all his profits simply because he broke the trust of Mr Blake, who lives on a

KGB pension in Moscow, is

being sued by the Attorney General for £90,000 earned from No Other Choice, chroncling his life as an MI6 agent. Philip Havers, representing the Attorney General, said that although the book was no

breach of confidence - Mr Blake had given the Russians all the confidential information in it years before — he still had a "fiduciary duty" to his former bosses. It is believed to be the first

time the Government has made such a wide-reaching claim. In the Spycatcher case when the Crown tried to pre-vent the former MI5 emsublishing his memoirs, the House of Lords appeal found that Mr Wright's duty was

claiming only that Mr Blake breached trust, the case could

if successful — stop all
Crown servants from publishing work without authority.
Mr Havers told the Vice-Chancellor, Sir Richard Scott: "As a member of the Special

As the Government is

Intelligence Service [Mr

Blake] owed two duties which persisted after the termina-tion of his duties to the Crown in addition to the duty "Firstly a duty not to use his position as a former mem-

ber of the SIS so as to make for himself an unauthorised profit. Secondly a duty not to use property acquired by reason of his position as a for-mer member of the SIS --- including intangible property such as confidential information - so as to make for him-Mr Blake, aged 73, did not appear and was not repre-sented. But the Attorney General had asked Lord Lester to assist the court as amicus curios, a rare appointment

made only when important issues are involved and one of the parties is not represented.
Lord Lester argued that if a former security officer was barred from publishing his autobiography because he was employed by the Crown, then government ministers should also be stopped from publishing their memoirs. He said that, to sue for breach of confidence, the Government has to prove it is in the public inter-

est to restrain publication. Mr Blake originally received a £36,000 advance for the book, which came out in 1989. The Government acted too late to apply for this money, which was put in a trust for his two sons. The further £90,000 owed by

publishers Jonathan Cape was frozen by a High Court judgment two years ago. In Moscow yesterday, Mr Blake said he was unaware the case was on. He said: "I money] off in my mind ... don't really care any more."

The case continues.

British units' secret war in Bosnia 'killed hundreds'

warring parties to the table. The UN secretary-general's special envoy to Bosnia, Yasushi Akashi, was perturbed to discover that the SAS was em-broiled in an undercover war.

An SAS officer tells the

Guardian how one unit was

weaving an intelligence web in preparation for the air stopped by a Serbian patrol. The patrol of 15 Serbs was wiped out within a minute of shooting by the SAS.
The SAS's operations be-

came legendary among UN colleagues. A favourite joke among the French army's

injured, make sure it doesn't happen near one of those British ambulances."

The use of ambulances for intelligence work caused backstage argument at UN health authority had veered troops tried to inspect the wreckage.

Two unhart and unconcerned British soldiers in unconcerned British soldiers in unconcerned British soldiers.

backstage argument at UN headquarters in Zagreb. French soldiers recall one incident concerning covert "ambulance" teams around

marked fatigues told them not to bother. Clearly, the French soldiers said, the "Humber-side ambulance" had con-24th Infantry. Regiment Bihac. An ambulance marked tained top secret material and around Bihac was: "If you get as belonging to Humberside been deliberately destroyed.

Modern Conservatives have never loved this court. Although a Tory government, under Churchill, built it and drafted the human rights convention it operates, it has been swept into the fear and loathing of all things European which have gripped the Thatcher and Major governments.

Hugo Young page 9

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Inmate 'sent to court in a nightie'

PRISONER in Holloway. Britain's largest women's jail, was forced to attend pink nightie because of a clothes shortage.

Sympton of a service that has gone wrong," she says.

"It is a fundamental right of women to be decently clothed. It is basic to justice that they should be well presented for court." PRISONER

pink nightie because of a clothes shortage.

The prison's board of visitors reveals today that even basic underwear and shoes were not available for inmates after the management suspended the WRVS clothing store last summer to enable a new pharmacy to be built on new pharmacy to be built on

"No alternative plans were no alternative plans were made and a degrading situation developed ... One woman attended court in a nightie because she had nothing else to wear. To date there is still no clothing provision, and many women are dependent upon the charity of staff and volunteers," says the annual volunteers," says the annual report of the board of visitors for Holloway Prison.

Rachel Palmer, the board's chairman, says there has been a marked improvement since the Chief Inspector of Prisons walked out because it was filtby, and a section of the chief Inspector of the Chief Inspector of the Chief Inspector of Prisons walked out because it was filtby, and a section of the chief Inspector of the chief Inspector of Prisons walked out because it was filtby, and a section of the chief Inspector of Prisons walked out because it was filtby, and a section of the chief Inspector of Prisons walked out because it was filtby, and a section of the chief Inspector of Prisons walked out because it was filtby, and a section of the chief Inspector of Prisons walked out because it was filtby. was filthy, and a national scandal broke over the chain-

ing of pregnant prisoners.

"Five or six black bags of rats have been taken out in

bish has gone and more staff have been recruited, but the lack of basic clothes is a sympton of a service that has

The board says the clothes crisis was particulary acute for foreign "drug mules", the homeless, and the mentally ill who often arrived at the prison with only the clothes they stood up in.

The situation was exacerbated last autumn by staff

shortages, which meant that even though some women had clothes sent in, they could not collect them because the parcels office was closed.

The report concludes that in 1995 the delicate balance between custody, care and justice, was tilted in favour of custody at Holloway, that "fundamental systems broke down, basic services were not

ure to take over from the sacked prisons director-general, Derek Lewis. Instead, he appointed Richard Tilt, who has been acting director-

'Cannibal dined on deception'

E called himself Steele — David Steele. Not the bloke who told his Liberal followers back in 1981 to go home and prepare for govern-ment, but a pop star who enjoyed rather more success in the decade following his politician namesake's

He was really Paul Vagg, aged 29, and he claimed he was David Steele, bass gui-tarist with The Fine Young Cannibals. One of the group's finest ditties was Drives Me Crazy. Vagg cer-tainly angered lan Levine, record producer, when he discovered his act. Southwark crown court heard

Vagg, of Bermondsey, south London, denies obtaining property by decep-tion. Mr Levine had invited him along to £150-a-head La Tante Claire restaurant in

Among the music folk there was a journalist, Jim that Vagg had never asked Brown. It was when he checked up on his tale that he had had to persuade a

Vagg was unmasked. But when he was ar-rested. Vagg told police he

had been using the musi-cian's name for years. "To call myself David Steele is not an offence. What would be an offence is utilising that to obtain a benefit, and that is something I am 100 per cent confident I have

not gone out to do."

Peter Gray, prosecuting, said Vagg's deception began when he phoned Mr Levine and mentioned details of The Fine Young Cannibals. Vagg had sug-gested Singers. Tests for one were fruitful.

Mr Levine, thinking he was dealing with Mr Steele, then arranged the restaurant visit.

he had liked the man he believed was David Steele very much. He had never asked for one of the group's albums. Vagg produced a copy of The Raw and The Cooked, pointed to a pic-ture of Mr Steele, and said:

he had had to persuade a homes in the affluent suburb reluctant Vagg to go to the of Cyncoed, Cardiff.

restaurant. As they walked home, dis-The trial continues today. abled caretaker Eric Corestaurant.

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Bruce Williams with his sculpture of Tony Hancock, to be unveiled in Old Square, Birmingham, on May 13. The tribute to the comedian was sponsored by the drug charity Turning Point and by Ansells, the brewers PHOTOGRAPH: ROCER BANKER

Sixth-form trio 'exulted' in attack

HREE middle class boys were last night ponder ing their future in a young offenders' institute after being sentenced for going on a drunken rampage.
Judge John Curran said
aixth-formers Andrew sixth-formers Andrew Groom, David Vodden and David Willey "exuited" in an

attack on a church caretaker Mr Levine told the jury and another man who came to

There cannot be a separate intelligence. Groom, Vodden and Willey were all pupils at Cardiff High School when they broke "I've put on a lot of weight from their A level studies to since then."

But Mr Levine admitted go on a beer and cider binge last May after celebrating VB





Drunken rampage: From left, Andrew Groom, David Vodden and David Willey

Day in a pub near their teenagers, the court heard.
Mr Cobourne, 50, was kicked in the face outside his church while Mr Birtle, 33, was knocked almost uncon-

scious as he tried to stop the David Aubrey, prosecuting, said: "When they left the pub they were drunk, rowdy and destructive — and they were CELLNET

"They rampaged around the streets of this normally quiet suburb, behaving like

drunken hooligans." The three then came across Mr Cobourne. Mr Co-bourne was verbally abused

him with a wound that needed several stitches." He said that Groom, a doc tor's son, laughed and told his friends: "My aim is usually that good." The jury heard that Mr Co-bourne was then kicked in

the head by Vodden. the head by Vodden.

Mr Aubrey said: "This man had his head down, when Vodden carried out what can only be described as a football volley to his head. It's claimed Volden then turned to friends and boasted 'Did you see that — his nose just

Asked why they had picked on Mr Cobourne, Vodden and then Groom threw a replied: "He was obviously

bottle at his head, leaving

Mr Birtle was attacked and then chased down the road before being kicked and punched by the youths.

They admitted violent di order and causing actual bodily harm, but denied at-

empting to cause grievous bodily harm. They were convicted of the

charge. Groom and Vodden were also found guilty of wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm on Mr Cobourn Groom and Vodden were sen to a young offenders' centre for two years while Willey was ordered to be detained for

Olympics bid boosted

Rule change on lottery cash promotes sport and arts talent

John Duncan and David Ward

HE chances of the Olympics coming to Britain in 2008 were significantly increased yesterday with an announcement that he Government will make ottery money available to help attract top sporting

The bid is centred on a new £200 million national stadium

— probably at Wembley —
and lottery money will ensure that the cash-strapped British Olymple Association is not hindered in its efforts to bring the games to Britain for the first time since 1948.

tery funding for individuals, which will help to develop sports and arts falent.

The National Lottery has so far raised £1.7 billion for the five "good causes" fund dis-tribution boards, with arts and sports receiving £300 mil-lion each. But uptil now money could only be spent on buildings. equipment and other facilities.

The Sports Council yester-

day welcomed the changes, whose immediate effect will be a boost to Olympic compet-itors before the Atlanta games. "Competing at this level is almost a full-time job and we do not believe that representation should mean financial hardship," said Rod-Other changes announced ney Walker, chalman of the included permission for lot-

"We hope that this will make it easier for those dedicated to their sport at regional and national level to

train and compete."

Announcing the changes the Heritage Secretary, Virginia Bottomley, said: "The new rules will provide a flow of funds directly to the young and talented, so that they can excel, pushing themselves to their own limits, inspiring others and bringing pleasure to the millions who will cheer them on to success."

them on to success."

The theatre world also also responded positively to the changes. Sue Reddish, director of the youth theatre run by the Bolton Octagon company in Greater Manchester, said that it would allow the Octagon, which has bid for 285,000 of lottery money not allowable under the old rules, to fund a youth worker to take theatre work to some of Bolton's most deprived areas. them on to success take theatre work to some of Bolton's most deprived areas.

Victory for Bottomley in battle over charities board

THE Heritage Secretary, For charity matters, volun-terday won a Whitehall battle tary sector issues would for control of the National Lottery Charities Board and oversight of government pol-icy on the voluntary sector as a whole, writes David Brindle.

tary sector issues would transfer as soon as possible from the Home Office to Mrs Bottomley's Department of National Heritage.

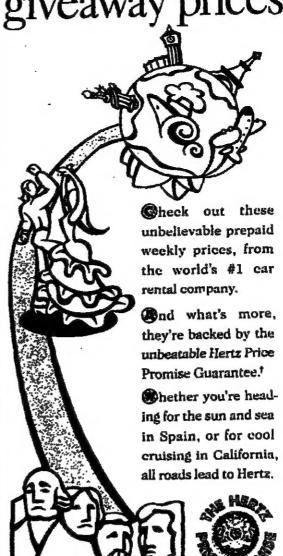
a whole, writes David Brindle

The switch, a big boost for give the sector a more focused

The Prime Minister anthe department, means Mrs approach by government and
nounced that responsibility Bottomley will now have cona stronger voice in Cabloel.

tery grant-making boards, Stuart Etherington, chief Council for Voluntary Organisations, said the trans-fer of responsibility would

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Judges 'not as soft on crime as people think'

HE conventional wisdom that the courts are much more le-nient than the public would like is challenged in research by a university

The public do believe that the courts are too soft on criminals but they also underestimate the use of prison by judges and magis-trates, according to Michael Hough of South Bank univer-

sity. London.

The belief that the judges are "soft" underpins the white paper introducing tough minimum sentences to be published by the Home Secretary tomorrow. The research, People Talking About Punishment, was fi-nanced by the Nuffield Foun-About Punishment

Officers

to block

Roberts

Harry

urge Home

Secretary

parole for

police killer

Duncan Campbell on

to stop parole being granted

to Harry Roberts, who was

iailed for the murder of three

police officers 30 years ago.

Cause of force's anger Harry Roberts: "The police

THE Police Federation has by news that the Probation urged the Home Secretary Service had contacted rela-

32%, \$1000

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☐ Half the public think that | also proposed castration 50 per cent or fewer rapists are sent to prison. In fact 91 per cent of rapists are

Half thought that 20 per cent or fewer convicted burglars to to prison. In fact all per cent are jailed.

Half thought that 20 per cent or fewer convicted mug-

gers go to prison. In fact well over 50 per cent are jailed. Professor Hough said the sentences that people advo-cate are often in line with cur-

rent practice.
"Our respondents were, in the main, very punitive towards offenders. Where they advocated prison sen-tences, they often wanted longer sentences, and they wanted these served in full. "This was marked for the more serious crimes which

we considered, for rape in particular.

tives of the officers and the

federation to say Roberts was

applying for parole and would

be intending to live in the

"by no means frivolously" out a special run of the Home Office computer. rapists.

"Little wonder, under such Among the widespread miscircumstances, that the pub-lic has no idea of the going understandings are that rate. Little suprise too, at the prison is rarely used; that rapists get suspended sen-tences and burglars and lack of any informed public debate over the severity of street robbers are fined or

Professor Hough warns that The study recommends that the sentences need to be made public appetite for tougher ounishment will never be sat "more transparent" so that people can understand how much time is served. It also says that the "more substan-tial misperceptions" about sentencing need to be tences as long as the underlying problem about the misperception about sen-tences remains unchanged.

There is a danger of getting on a treadmill of tougher and It says this task cannot be tougher sentences which would be politically difficult

centrate on the grofesquely lenient or punitive sentences. The study criticises the People Talking About Punishment, Professor Michael Hough, is to be published later this year by the Howard

courts for not giving a gen-eral indication of the "going rate" for a particular crime and says getting hold of such Onder the Victims' Charter, it | it to police officers who wer is standard practice in such cases to let relatives of vic-

even cautioned.

Roberts, now 59, was jailed for life in December 1966 for the murder of three police officers in Shepherd's Bush, west London. He was on the

left to the media which con-

The trial judge recom-mended that Roberts serve a minimum of 30 years. Two other men were convicted with him. John Duddy died in jail and Jack Witney, who did not fire the fatal shots, was

Fred Broughton, chairman of the Police Federation, has written to the Probation Ser vice saying Roberts should never be considered for pa-role, and Mike Bennett, chair-man of the Metropolitan Police Federation, has writ ten to Michael Howard to demand that Roberts never be

serving then, and those who are still serving, that this sen-tence is a deterrent."

The Police Federation sup ports the death penalty for the murder of police officers. The issue will be debated at this year's Police Federation conference in Scarborough

Roberts was told he would be considered for parole in In an interview with the

Guardian in 1993 at Dartmoor prison, he said: "I can't prove One of the factors considered when parole is discussed

Roberts said: "The police aren't like real people to us. They're strangers. They're the enemy . . . I do feel sorry for what we did to their families. But it's like people killed in Malaysia (when in



Tim Whitnall as Elvis Presley rehearsing yesterday for Elvis — The Musical, opening at the Prince of Wales Theatre,

1 in 3 women wear the wrong shoes.



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that what you want, you simply can't get. Until now

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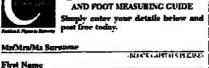
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GPs lose cash loophole

Doctors who quit fundholding barred from creaming off profits According to an Audit Commission report last year, 60

tal care.

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

INISTERS are closing a loophole which has allowed family doctors to quit the fundholding scheme with past profits while leaving current losses to be met by their local health

The loophole was exposed when it emerged that a fundholding practice in Plympton. Devon, planned to resign from the scheme last weekend with a £50,000 surplus accrued in previous years, leav-ing £60,000 losses for 1995-96.

fundholding practices apfirst four years in the scheme. it built up an overall surplus of just under £100,000 by under-spending the budgets it was given to pay for patients' drugs and non-urgent hospi-

In the fifth year, however, it recorded anticipated losses of £112,000, against which it agreed to set half its accumulated surplus. Fundholding practices can

spend savings on anything that they can demonstrate would improve patient care. This includes practice pre-mises and equipment, even though such assets are the The practice, Savage and though such assets are the holding Partners, was one of the first property of the partners, and mark.

pay for treatment. According to an Audit Comper cent of savings spent had gone on premises, furnishings and practice or office

equipment.
The Government is acting to ensure that the accumulated savings of a practice quitting fundholding are used first to clear any current deficit. Statutory regulations due to take effect this month will require a former fundholding practice to apply any ac-cumulated savings to discharge its outstanding liabilities".

The regulations provide that in the event of a fundholding partnership splitting, any savings will be divided. The changes come as fundholding passes the 50 per cent

Queen's web-site at http:// www.windsor.co.uk were

Facts prove strange as fiction on day of tall tales

blue the Cola's gone flat". BMW unveiled its Insect

Andrew Culf Media Correspondent

IT WAS April Fool's Day, but even so, the stories in yesterday's newspapers strained credulity almost

to breaking point. They were an implausible crop: the Daily Mail reported that Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, was prepared to quit over the Government's disastrous handling of the BSE crisis, while the Daily

Telegraph made front page news out of Railtrack's instructions to staff to travel In fact these apparently tall stories were genuine tales sitting alongside countless laboriously-craft-

ed spoofs to mark April 1.

The Daily Mirror reported that Lancashire Water had dyed water or ange in its reservoirs to prevent Yorkshire Water from siphoning it off. According to the Tele-

graph, BBC presenters Martyn Lewis and Peter Sissons face the chop because they are above the European Union's newlyimplemented newsreading height limit of 6ft.

Only half-awake listeners to BBC Radio 4's Today pro-gramme would have fallen for a report revealing that the shadow Welsh secretary Ron Davies - and vocal critic of the Prince of Wales — was distantly related to the royal family and 15th in line to the throne. Mr Davies and the former Welsh secretary, John Redwood, played

along with the scam. Advertisers tried to cash in on the date too: Mars trumpeted the arrival of the left-handed Mars Bar, the Labour Party adverbeing offered by the Tories.

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and Virgin Cola took the tist, Dr Jurgen Afalfurit fizz out of Pepsi's planned (You're going to fall for it). blue can relaunch with a warning: "If the can turns who logged on to the

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for those with about 40% more to say

Bob Drogin reports from Amuru on the violent Christian fanatics intent on returning their country to another dark age of bloodshed

Cult army shatters Uganda's peace

commanuer or northern Uganda, held his gleaming cavalry sword high as he mounted the back of a bicycle pedalled by an aide and charged off into the bush to inspect the depredations of Africa's latest nightmare.

For two hours, terrified vil-lagers told him of atrocities lagers told him of atrocities and attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army, a Christian fundamentalist cult led by a killed and three lost limbs. fundamentalist cult led by a self-proclaimed prophet with a murderous manner. Okeya Santo, a school-

teacher, aged 32, told how the rebels shouted: "Teachers come out!" when they came to

RIGADIER General his hamlet late last year. Chefe Ali, army When he emerged from his hut, they shot him in the chest and arms. "I said, "you hill his chest and arms." I said, "you have the said arms." are killing me for no reason' They said: 'You are a teacher.' We don't want teachers.' His right arm had to be ampu-tated at the elbow. The guerrillas returned last

month. This time they burned 17 thatched huts and the In Topiny Marinus's charred but, someone left a message scratched on the mud bricks: "This war will not end."
That much is clear. Since

stepping up their attacks in early February, members of the Lord's Resistance Army have killed at least 250 people mostly civilians, and ab-ducted hundreds more. They

At first, Mr Kony's troops sliced the lips, ears or arms off their victims

say their goal is to topple the government of President a regime dedicated to enforc-

Mr Museveni has transformed Uganda since he seized power in 1996. The is the fastest-growing in Africa, the press is free, and presidential elections are scheduled for May.

But progress, at least in the north, is now held hostage by former Catholic altar boy,

Joseph Kony.

Mr Kony's army is an outgrowth of the Holy Spirit Movement, a Christian cult that ravaged northern Uganda in the late 1980s. It was led by Alice Lakwena, who claimed the was not the late 1980s. who claimed she was pos-sessed by the angry spirit of a long-dead Italian soldier. Mr Kony, reportedly her cousin, became her successor

after she went into exile in | tions," 1988. He also claimed he was controlled by spirits. But backed by officers once loyal to the former dictator Milton Obote, Mr Kony soon eclipset

At first his troops sliced the

lips, ears or arms off their victims. Later, anyone seen rid-ing a bicycle or owning white chickens was slain. These days, the owners of white pigs

Mr Kony said he cut off lips to stop people from reporting his whereabouts. Similarly, in an area without phones or cars, he targeted bicycles to stop people from warning the authorities. And chickens? "White chickens are allega-

tions," scoffed Walter Lut-kang a former Lord's Resistance Army guerrilla cap-tured by the military. "What he doesn't like are pigs. Pigs are ghosts."

For now, Mr Kony's esti-mated 400 to 800 guerrillas are unlikely to rout the govern-ment. About 20,000 soldiers, or half the army, have been sent to stop them. But the hattle is not going

well. On March 8, the guerrilias machine-gunned and burned a 17-vehicle convoy of civilian cars and buses. The military says 22 people killed: survivors insist that more than 100 died

"This is basically a child army that is terrorising the

overnment forces have "no sense of urgency" because mly civilians are attacked. That might change. Last

week a large rebel force at-tacked an army outpost for

the first time, wounding three Gen Ali, the bicycle-riding army commander, insists he is making progress. But be is frustrated. The rebels attack at night, when helicopters are useless, and they strike where

east expected. "We have been working a long time without achieving very much," he admitted



A little intifada but with one vital difference

Derek Brown in Bir Zeit

WAS, at first sight, just like the old days. A thin line of Israeli soldiers stood on a ridge, being inef-fectually pelted with stones by students. Every time the students ventured forward, a canister of tear gas looped towards them. From time to time there was a whoop of delight as a canister was picked up and hurled back.

The scene could have been time-warped from the intifada, the Palestinian uprising of the late 1980s, with one vital difference: between the students and the Israeli troops, making no impression on either, was a small contingent of Palestinian police.

Their dark blue uniforms stood out against the stony slope in Atarah hamlet outside Bir Zeit as they vainly tried to push back the stone-

The ignominious role of the Palestinian police has become a central issue in the West Bank since Israel imposed a travel and trade blockade more than a month ago, after the Islamist suicide bombmore contentious than in Bir Zeit, home of the territory's most prestigious university. Bank Last week Israeli para- home

HE Israeli prime min-

ister, Shimon Peres,

would ask for a referendum

before signing a final ac-

cord with the Palestinians

on the fate of Jerusalem and Jewish settlers.

army radio, was made on a

trip to the Gulf to boost

trade and shore up domes-

tic support for his peace

ty campus and surrounding villages. Landing from helicopters before dawn, they burst into dormitories and apartment, rounding up students and herding them on to a football field for interrogations. In six hours more than 370 men were arrested, of whom 280 were Bir Zeit stu-

dents and staff. Israeli military men said they were searching for "terrorists". All but a dozen or so have been released

Two days later Palestinian police in the autonomous en-clave of Nablus broke up a student protest rally at an-Najah university, firing live rounds and tear gas. Two students were shot and wounded and 10 others injured. President Yasser Arafat has

ordered an inquiry, but students and other West Bankers are unimpressed. "We don't know who is

more against us, our govern-ment or the Israelis," said 'Ibrahim' a 20-year-old second year student of psychology at Bir Zeit, who escaped from the paratroop-ers last Thursday by leaping from his apartment window ings. Nowhere is the issue and hiding on a hillside. He is from the Gaza Strip, and all Gazan students in the West Bank have been ordered

Peres promises referendum salem, the 130,000 Jewish said yesterday he settlers in the West Bank ld ask for a referendum and Gaza Strip, and the return of Palestinian refugees are due to start next month.

Binyamin Netanyahu, His unexpected an-nouncement, reported by sition Likud party, told the radio: "I am puzzled by the attempts by Mr Peres to by-pass the real referendum. A real referendum is the elections." - Reuter.

terrorist who wants to destroy Israel," he said vester day, with weary irony. 'It is really not fair. I don't have

anything to do with Gaza." who live in Khan Yunis refu gee camp, for two years. He would like to go home, but he does not dare try to pass through the Israeli checkpoints. And now he lives, semi-underground, in the nearby self-rule enclave of Ra-mallah, which means that on his daily trip to the universi ty he has to pass through Pal-estinian checkpoints.

About 30 Gazan students captured last Thursday have been sent home: deported from one part of autonomous Palestine to another. Other are luckier, but no less angry talked of students being hand-cuffed, blindfolded and beaten. "This was a terrorist act, committed to boost the election campaign.

Bir Zeit's frustration became tangible yesterday when a couple of thousand staff and students demonstrated outside the municipal headquarters and police station. It was brief and peaceful, and that did not match the mood of a minority, who ignored the call to return to the campus, and in-stead made for the hamlet of Atarah, to hurl stones at Israeli soldiers guarding the by-pess built for Jewish settlers.

It was, by the standards of the intifada, a small-scale con frontation. But in the new surreality of the West Bank -Atarah is Israeli-controlled. and Bir Zeit itself is supposedly shared — the little riot on the hillside could have been a harbinger of something infinitely more ugly. Japan has given the Pales tinian Authority almost education projects in the self-



A Palestinian girl carries an olive branch at a protest against closures in the Gaza Strip

Jobs axed at UN

Mark Tran in New York

HR United Nations yes terday started axing jobs as the worst financial crisis in the organisation's history began to bite. Joseph Connor, its top man-ager, began briefings spelling

out to member states the progress he has made to cut the staff of 10,000 by 10 per cent. The bulk of the cuts are expected to come from non-replacements while between

A shrinking budget and late payments by member states are to blame. Washington, the biggest defaulter, owes \$1.5 billion (£1 billion). At the beginning of the year, half the UN's members had not paid last year's dues and the organisation is owed \$3.1 billion.

The crisis could mean a total shutdown by November. Mr Connor, formerly chairman of Price Waterhouse, was brought in at the behest of the US to apply private sector management techniques to cut out waste. He has managed to keep the UN going by borrowing money out of the UN peacekeeping budget to pay salaries and other

expenses.
The end of the UN's Bosbig drop in the cost of peac keeping, but it spells trouble in the short term as Mr Connor cannot dip into this source of funds to make up for the shortfall in the regular

Last year, the secretariat asked the general assembly to approve an operating budget of \$2.8 billion for this year and next. The assembly voted for a budget of \$2.6 billion and then asked for another \$104 million in cuts.

Rio de Janeiro, selzed 40 officials and reporters on Thursday during a tour of the over-crowded prison. They later released 17 hostages in ex-change for food and water.

Negotiations between offi-cials and the rebel ringleader

Leonardo Pareja, a convicted

kidnapper and bank robber, broke down on Sunday. The

convicts are said to have made new, undisclosed de-

New digital Nokia. 100 hours of power!



Table dancers sidestep recession in Mexico

Phil Gunson reports on the lucrative sex trade in the capital's illegal night clubs where workers can earn £1,500 a month

T IS 5.30 on a Friday afternoon and Salúa is wearing an engaging smile and practically noth-

lisco state spends the whole of her working week in var-ious states of undress: she's a worker in one of the few industries apparently booming de-spite the recession — the

sex trade. "This is the business to be in," she grins, "I'm sure there are not many engi-neers or professors making as much as I do."

As a stripper in one of the hundreds of "night clubs" which have mushroomed in the centre of Mexico City, Salúa takes home about £1,500 a month — twice what she used to earn as a saleswoman selling recon-ditioned motors.

When the recession hit in December 1994, and the peso slumped to half its previous value, the price of imported parts for the cars put them out of reach of

With qualifications in dressmaking, tourism and public relations, she thought she would have no trouble getting another job.
"The problem," she says, "is that if you have a good body, most bosses want to get you in the sack." ironically, she feels safer taking her clothes off in public. "The clients treat ruption charges and his meantime the you like a queen," she says. replacement, Alejandro to continue."

"They may be abusive wifebeaters at home, but here it's like the first year of

marriage, when every-thing's great." Sex with the clients is optional, she adds. "If you don't want to go with them you don't have to. And the security here is better than in any restaurant — it's safer than a first date."

Pedro Peñaloza, who chairs the public safety committee of Mexico City's legislative assembly, said recently that in just one central district of the capital — Cuauhtémoc — 1,217 clubs of this kind were operating; though not all offer the kind of working conditions Salvia enjoys.

conditions Salua enjoys. Around 220 are estimated to be completely outside the law. Licensed as anything from restaurants to linge-rie shops, they survive — somewhat precariously — by paying large bribes to the authorities.

If ordered to close they can reportedly often obtain a stay of execution from the courts by greasing a palm or two; and ultimately they reopen somewhere else under a different name.

Mr Peñaloza puts the district office's daily "take" in bribes from night clubs, both legal and illegal, at thousands of pounds.

In February the city officers.

In February the city official in charge of Cuanhté moc was jailed pending Carrillo Castro, has promised a campaign against the illegal strip joints.

The district has been con tributing more than its share to a 40 per cent increase in Mexico City crime figures since late 1994. Local residents blame the clubs for attracting

criminals.

Alarmed at the prospect of a campaign against businesses they say employ 20,000 people, the night-club workers' union held a demonstration to demand that Mr Courille Contract. that Mr Carrillo Castro reg ulate the clubs instead of trying to shut them down.
"They want to take our jobs away, but they don't say what we should do in-

stead," says one union The workers may, how ever, count themselves lucky that Mexico City is still run as a department of rather than ruled — as are many provincial cities — by the conservative Catholics of the opposition National Action Party (PAN).

The party has acquired a reputation for moral crusades against everything from mini-skirts to the socalled "table dance" -which in Mexico City at least seems to have little to do with bodily contact.

"I used to work in PAN-governed Tijuana," says Salta, "and there they make you dance on the table. It's no fun at all." Time may be running out for the table dancers, as the first direct elections for the city government are to be

News in brief

Rebel prisoners refuse deal

NMATES holding 23 hos-tages at a maximum security prison have rejected the Brazilian government's offer of guns, money and getaway cars, pushing the stand-off to its fourth day yesterday.
"We're at an impasse," Cap-

ain Adallton Florentino do Nascimento of the Goias state police said. Immates at the prison in Aparecida de Goiania, a small

own 580 miles northwest of mands. — AP.

Turabi back in public role

elected the Islamist leader Hassan al-Turabi as Speaker yesterday, putting him back in public office after more than six years as an ideologist active behind the scenes. His election consecrates the close alliance between himself and President Omar Has

san al-Bashir. Mr Turabi, aged 64, won seat in parliament last month in roughly the same Khartoum constituency be lost in multi-party elections 10 years ago. His main opponent abandoned

in Cameroon

A dozen Rwandans suspected of involvement in the massa cre of at least 500,000 people in 1994 are being held in Yaounde, Cameroon, officials said yesterday. They include Theoneste Bagosora, a former colonel accused of master-

UN food appeal UN officials appealed for Liber civilian rule, the group ria's warring factions to open in a statement. — Reuter.

Abbado settles Mahler claim

THE conductor Claudio Abbado has agreed to settle out of court with the record company he was suing over a compilation of Mahier symphonies, legal sources indicated yesterlay, writes Alex Duval Smith in Paris.

Mr Abbado, director of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, argued that Deutsche Grammophon-Polygram broke French law when it released a compact disc of four Mahler symphonies he conducted. He demanded damages of

Rwandans held

100,000 francs (£13,000).

can deliver food to people trapped by fighting in Tub-manburg, north-west Libe-ria.—AP. Lagos opposition Nigerian pro-democracy

a safe corridor so aid agencies

groups agreed at weekend meetings in Oslo and Johannesburg to form an umbrella organisation, the United Demoppose General Sani Abacha's military regime and restore civilian rule, the group said

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Ukraine will become possible soon.

In the run-up to June elections, Mr Yeltsin and that even to be seen negoti-ating with the Ukrainian president, Leonid Kuchma, as an equal would inflame bitter resentment among Russians, who feel part of their country was allowed

Mr Yeltsin's visit, sched-

which his chief election rival, Gennady Zyuganov, aspires. Today Mr Yeltsin is due to sign an agreement on a vaguely-defined "union" with the third former pillar of post-Soviet east Slavdom, Bielarus. While the Bielarussian

leader, Alexander Luka-shenko, is bappy to play the role of the humble vassal to Mr Yeltsin, the Ukrainian authorities prefer to keep Russia at arm's length.

Mr Kuchma, who won the Ukrainian presidency in 1994 on a pro-Russian ticket, has steadily shifted his ground towards a more nationalist position, breaking with moves towards economic integration with Russia when he parted company with three top advisers earlier this year.

The Ukrainian leader is still the country's most popular politician, and though his core support has swung from the Russiafriendly east to the nationalist west, a subtle shift in favour of pragmatic Ukrainian statehood seems to be occurring in other areas, such as Kiev itself, as the economy bottoms

out.

previously always chose to rael and Egypt.

speak Russian. Mr Kuchma has already

communists. ganov to try to force his ers and cruise missiles left dent, but there are fears of an extreme counter-reaction by Ukrainian national-

Aware of the growing im-

the Warrior and everyone in Brig Duncan said: "I thought whoops, we've got a problem. If we retaliate in kind to this, we'll be fighting

One evening the Croats fired a wire-guided anti-tank missile capable of destroying

all-out war, and will lose people. I travelled down to Gornji thinking 'What are we here for?. We're here to de-liver aid.' It was clear that the situation had to be defused. The initiative for this came from our commander in Gornji, Graham Binns, who talked at length to the Croat | country, and that let the snipcommanders and then, in order to test his theory, parked up his warrior in the main square with his turret

tery. It worked."

If Croats could be devilish, the Muslims were no angels. Having run the gauntlet of

get even, and revenge is not a civilised way to behave." Sometimes the Croats even getting even would have been folly. The worst sniping was from the cemetery in Gornji Vakuf, the main street of which was a narrow asphalt no man's land patrolled by the British. Every British vehicle that turned the corner into town

locked its turret on the cemetery, as though to say: "If you're ready, so are we." A senior Unprofor officer says on reflection: "There was a feeling at HQ that what was going on at Gornii was a little OTT. That to lock your guns on the Croats as a met-ter of course was exacerbating the situation."

By the end," Brig Duncan said, "everyone was shooting

rounds a minute. No more By the end of January there were nightly exchanges of fire between the British on the roof of their base and Croat gunmen in the buildings. They even marked up the

John Hooper in Rome

rated for remarkable acts of bravery on behalf of civilians and colleagues. There are no final figures

for the number of dead. Unlike in Northern Ireland, soldiers who opened fire in Boswander into minefields to inspect the damage. But the Guards' score took the total well into three figures.

HE Ministry of De-fence cannot give kering down meant the Guards moved less across ers get closer and meant more shooting. In Gornji Vakuf, an people killed by the British Army. The number put about at the end sushi Akashi: a conversation all-out nightscope battle be-tween the Guards and the HVO was raging. It was dur-38. That brought a nervous cough from senior officers on ing this period that a delegation from the Bosnian army arrived at Gornji Vakuf base the ground, and a puckish grin from the lads. One senior you please stop shooting at the Croats, because they think it's us and we're withink it's we're withink it's we're withink it's we're withink it's w a still-serving soldier): "Could

Serbs and the Muslim enclave. That January a Briton, Sir Michael Rose, took command of Unprofor for the first

Gorazde became a miserable posting, since the commanders in Sarajevo refused to force convoys through the blockading Serbs. Even fuel failed to arrive, and patrols were mounted on mules and

But there were other British soldiers at work in Gor-azde. Handfuls of Special Air Services men had already been deployed in central Bosnia, but now 50 scouts and covert soldiers were sent be-hind Serbian lines.

An SAS officer, who de-

The scouts, from the SAS, the 14th Intelligence Regi-ment, and the Royal Signals, worked in groups of four. They had trained on gruelling 'beat-up' marches over the sieged capital on foot.

'I used to think long and

hard about whether it was right to kill these people. And I decided that it was. The aid got through. **Hundreds of thousands of** people were saved'

Brigadier Alastair Duncan

. . . A British Warrior fighting vehicle in Gornji Vakuf. Guns were routinely locked on the cemetery, a hotbed of snipers Shootbat squaddies' hidden battles

Tihomir Blaskic, now due for

extradition as a war criminal

British troops did more than hold a line between the factions, writes Ed Vulliamy. When they were pushed over the edge, they shot back



HE British Army's overt war in Bos

nia began in Octo-

fog, troops set up three bases, at Tomislavgrad,

Gornji Vakuf and Vitez. Until

they arrived the war was

being fought between a Mus-

lim-Croat alliance against the Serbs, and the British bases

were well behind the lines.

But the very week that 12

men of the 1st Battalion, 22

Cheshire Regiment, pitched

doorstep — between the erst-while Croatian and Muslim

It was a ferocious fight in

which the British became more closely involved than

history has hitherto recorded.

The British were heavily provoked, particularly by the Croats, who were ideologically inhospitable from the

start. As nationalists, they

had long memories of Chur-

chill's backing of Tito. As fer-

vent Catholics, they crowed

Lieutenant-Colonel Bob

Stewart was defiant about his

right to open fire on anyone

about Northern Ireland.

ke out -- virtually on their

immodest presence, he pre-ferred to play what he now calls 'chess' with the Croatian army, the HVO. When Croat snipers took up positions around his base or convoys, he simply went out himself "and told them to get lost".

"Usually they did, and if they didn't, we shot them." On April 16 the British solbit of action." after the Croat massacre of Muslim civilians at Ahmici. Angry patrols identify the firer, and there

fired at the Croats. By the time the Cheshires left in April 1993, the official number of dead Croats was six.

The Cheshires were succeeded in April 1993 by Prince of Wales Own Yorkshires, another tightly-woven county regiment, under the com-Alastair Duncan. In their first week of duty, a HVO mob ambushed the unofficial "Convoy of Joy". The Yorkshires returned fire at a Croat mor-

tar nest, killing four. That was the beginning. This regiment was less bombastic than the Chesh-ires, Brigadier (as he now is) Duncan is more camera-shy than Col Stewart he is a courteous, agreeable man. But he and his regiment emerged as the toughest unit of the United Nations protection

force, Unprofor. Brig Duncan was awarded a DSO for his command in Bosthe Army's biggest garrison, Catterick. Unlike Col Stewart. he has kept away from the public gaze. But now he explains how he ran his unit,

which came to be known as and if you kill him that's very "Shootbat". "Shootbat".
"We were living on the

to The Hague.
"I used to go to his head-quarters and ask what all this was about. He was always 'out' or 'not available'. I said Til wait'. He always emerged, arger-than-life, pleasantly | came normal. We would have visitors to the officers' mess, while rounds were hitting the The nadir of relations with

building, and have to shout 'Did you say gin and tonic?' In sniper shot dead Dobrila Kolaba, who was interpreter to the television room we'd be watching The Great Escape then both Col Stewart and Col Duncan. She happened to be a local Serb. The men were while mortars shook dust from the ceiling, so men would have to put their hands "She was a nice girl," one of Brig Duncan's soldiers said. over their glasses to stop it

falling into the beer. "She had nothing against anyone. We gave the bastards some stick that night." The unit's patrols and aid A Warrior from the backup dens of Vitez, straight at the

people from being injured, the British fired back. It was a calculated strategy to get the aid through. "We had to impress our will on the forces occupying the area with a mix of coercion, threats, bluff, bravado and in the end, force," Brig Duncan

"You have a mandate and if someone pushes you over the edge, then you shoot people, and I suppose that's why they called us Shootbat."

The British fire was usually from chain guns fitted to their Warrior vehicles, 'I told the HVO and the Muslims that it would make their defences look like paper." Brig Duncan

UT who to shoot? "When you are shot at by a 15-year-old with an in a Warrior, then it's not exnia, and has now taken over | actly 'minimum force' to open up with a chain gun and slice him in half, is it? But if someone is firing at you again and again, and lives are threat-ened, then it's fair to shoot,

obstructing the delivery of aid — to the horror of tepid Whitehall. But despite his

HVO trenches. There is no word on specific casualties, but the CO was less than pleased. "You don't descend | Croats "watching what they A senior officer says: There was a feeling at HQ that what was

going on at Gornji was a little OTT' the escorts and patrols then had to deal with the Muslims' said. "You don't get mad, you conviction that the Croats had taken a "commission" on raised the stakes so high that the way.Once past Vitez, it was the government army's snipers who would attack.

> at the convoys." In November 1993 the Yorkshires left, the reckoning undisclosed. It is now esti-mated that between 40 and 50 Croats and 20 to 30 Muslims fell to the regiment's guns: an unbeaten Unprofor record. But every single UNHCR (United Nations. High Commissioner for Refugees) aid convoy that entered the Yorkterrain reached its destination — a record shared only with the Cheshires. Furthermore, the regiment did

think it's us and we're getting all the shit for it." Ruzica Korosec admits her Croatian husband should not have been where he was when he died in January 1994. He was in a HVO tank whose turret followed British pat rols along the main street in Gornji. "He hated the British, and he hated the Muslims," she said. "I could understand

whether it was right to kill

these people. Whether it was

that important. And I decided

that it was. The aid got

through. Hundreds of thou

sands of people were saved. That was what we were there

Next into Vitez and Gornil

were the Coldstream Guards,

who "bunkered down", earn-

ing themselves the nickname "Coldfeet Guards". But bun-

fighting the Muslims, but I don't understand why they tried to fight the British." This is what one of the sol-diers said. "Night after fuck-ing night it followed us. We warned them not to. But there it would be, next night, and the snipers. After a week we took a Warrior to it, 900

Gorazde. score of hits on the walls. This hidden war lasted until the Muslim-Croat feder-

not take a single fatality. ation was formed in February Brecon Beacons. Their brief Brig Duncan said: "I used 1994, by which time men from was to weave a web of military to think long and hard about all regiments had been decoair strikes - and to shoot their way out of trouble.

They usually pretended to be UN military observers, but sometimes worked from "hides" — hidden bunkers or aid vehicles, and, in the case of Bihac, the infamous ambulances.

Outside Gorazde hides were established on the front line from which the Bosnian army retreated on April 16 1994. One SAS patrol was exposed to the Serbian advance, and

two men injured. which was, famously, taped. support: Mr Akashi, lunching with the Bosnian Serb presi-dent, Radovan Karadzic,

The more seriously wounded man was evacuated the Guardian has learned with the Bosnian Serb warlord Ratko Mladic, in exchange for dropping the air strike request — but later

died. Another recovered. The remaining six SAS men apparently disappeared. This s what happened to four of them. They set out along the goat-trails through Serbian territory along which the Bosnians had supplied the enclave with ammunition throughout the siege. They were stopped by a Serbian

unit. The team went into what they call "head-on contact drill", in which each moves swiftly into position, firing like mad but in such a way that they do not shoot each

clined to say whether he was a member of these teams, de The Serbian patrol, between 10 and 15 men, was wiped out in seconds. The Rose's residence in the early blackened, having made it to

Yeltsin deals another snub to Ukraine

James Meek reports on the strained diplomatic relations between Moscow and Kiev as Russian elections loom

PRSIDENT Boris Yelt-sin set a new record Ukraine will become possfor diplomatic non-appearances yesterday when he cancelled a trip to Ukraine for the sixth time. strengthening the sense of unease in Russia's southern neighbour about future and eternal use of the Serelations between the two

east Slav giants. Ukraine, a country of 50 sian enclave. million people beginning to find its feet after five years of economic collapse, is his advisers clearly felt feeling increasingly squeezed between an exincreasingly panding Nato to the west and a reassertive, nationalist Russia to the east. The official reason for Mr Yeltsin's cancellation was

that no agreement had been reached on the status of the Russian Black Sea Fleet and its base in Sevastopol, on Ukrainian territory. The president of Russia deems it impossible to sign accords which do not fully

In fact, the Kremlin knew long before it scheduled the visit that Kiev had no intention of yielding to Russian demands for exclusive vastopol base, which would effectively make it a Rus-

to slip away from Moscow's rule in 1991 — and blame Mr Yeltsin for allowing it

uled for Thursday and announced long in advance, was supposed to cap a tri-umphant week in which he would pose in the historical role of the gatherer of the Despite fury and demon-Slav lands — the mantle to strations in some parts of ably more enthusiastic Russian.

Ukraine, moves to ease out Russian television channels in favour of Ukrainian ones have met with surprisingly little resistance, and the Ukrainian language is increasingly being heard on the streets of the capital

said he wants to see Mr ballistic missile factory, Yeltsin beat Mr Zyuganov in June. While the current Russian leader is a capricious partner, the Ukrainidership prefers his synthetic Russian nationalism to the populist, Soviet particularly as Russia's synthetic Russian national-Russian patriotic line being pursued by

No one expects Mr Zyuvoluntary union of on its territory after the ists, if he does come to

portance of Ukraine as a buffer state, both Russia and Nato are wooing it as a military and economic

about Partnership. for States troops have carried out several exercises with Ukrainian soldiers and British forces are due to do the same this year. Ukraine is now the third largest - a city whose inhabitants | recipient of US aid after Is-

> At the same time Mr Kuchma, former head of a and his civilian defence minister Valery Shmarov are anxious that Ukraine's bankrupt arms factories should co-operate with overseas arms exports show signs of picking up. Ukraine has sold Russia a conduct against him. Though spiced with scandal

Western Ukrainian nation-

alism, like Baltic national-

ism, is virplently anti-

number of strategic bombbrother peoples" on break-up of the Soviet electorate. It will be the Ukraine if elected presi- Union, and seems likely to seventh national hallot in John a CIS air defence pact. One of the reasons Russia fears the expansion of Nato is that even if Nato is not an anti-Russian organisation now, the character of the Mr Di Pietro could change all that Pollsters reckon he is capable of swinging up to one countries on the list to join vote in six. would make it more anti-Russian in the future.

Idol flusters Italian poll

(Come on Italy) party.
Last year he even held secret talks with the televi-TALIAN politicians were waiting impatiently yester-day to see whether the sion magnate at his home country's most popular public figure would throw in his lot with either of the two main blocs contesting this month's closely-run general election. Antonio di Pietro, the pros-

ecutor who became a national Hands" anti-corruption drive has it in his power to electrify the campaign. On Friday his immense moral authority was allegations. restored in full when a tudge in the northern town of Brescia dismissed charges of mis-

and controversy, the run-up to the April 21 election has so far failed to enthral a jaded four years, and the campaign is overshadowed by fear that the outcome will fail to resolve the political deadlock.

But he has a problem. A former policeman with the air of one who does not suffer fools sympathy for the ideas put forward by Silvio Berlus- Forza Italia to trial on coni's rightwing Forza Italia charges of attempted

Since then, however, evidence has surfaced to suggest that some of Mr Berlusconi's closest associates plotted to discredit Mr Di Pietro and

force him from his job. He resigned as a prosecutor in December 1994, shortly be-fore he was due to interrogate

week sent Mr Berlusconi's tion and fraud involving brother and the organiser of European Union funds.

The judge who threw out

extortion.

The last opinion poll allowed before the election, published yesterday, showed liance in the lead with 47 per cent of the vote. But it also showed combined support for the centre and left running at more than 44 per cent.

Translated into an election result, that could again hand the balance of power to the fore he was due to interrogate | regionalist Northern League.

Mr Berlusconi about bribery | • Bishop Salvatore Cassisa. aged 74, of Monreale, near Palermo, was sent for trial yesthe case against him last terday on charges of corrup-



Rosenthal says: "I always remember John Le Mesurier's advice to young actors: 'Always play the same role, if possible wearing the same suit.' Clearly, there is a writer's equivalent of that."

Mark Lawson G2 page 4

The Guardian

Tuesday April 2 1996 Edition Number 46,516 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER Fax No. 0171-837 4530 E-mail: letters@guardian.co.uk Website: http://www.guardian.co.uk

An arsenal on the right

The US must confront awkward questions

violent new symbol for America's ultraright? The confrontation between the freemen" of Jordan, Montana and the law enforcement officers may have a rather better chance of being resolved peacefully because of the lessons learnt after the Waco siege disaster. That assumes that the FBI sticks to its own new guidelines which say that deadly force should only be used if all other means of preventing "imminent and grave danger to officers and other persons" have failed. Backing off and creating space is the best approach: the worst one would be another shoot-out in which new martyrs are created for other militias

The FBI has finally moved against the Jordan group not because they were preaching hatred and anti-semitism, but because of their skills in issuing bogus cheques and exacting fraudulent refunds from banks and businesses. But their activities have been on the increase over the past year in which they have made violent threats against government and court officials. After Oklahoma, this sort of ideology should be a warning signal that there is an arsenal of weapons which its exponents are prepared to use to defend their version of the American way of life. One fraudulent cheque was written to purchase 200 .50-caliber rifles, a similar number of now be on the ranch. The group is already well-armed with 10,000 rounds males the opportunity to translate their obsessions into lethal action.

awkward questions about the ultraright at increasingly frequent intervals.

WILL THE MONTANA crisis become a | gins and make-up: it is not enough to generalise that in the melting-pot of US society such fringe groups are bound to occur. Is there any way of identifying ahead of time the formation of such cults and neutralising them before they can attract more followers? The second and more troublesome question is whether such groups can be viewed as belonging to a class entirely of their own, or whether they really represent the most extreme point on a much broader social spectrum which must give deeper grounds for concern.

The ultra-right phenomenon is often explained, even explained away, as the historical price to be paid for the creation of the US with its very specific individualistic values. But no taxation without representation never meant just no taxation. And the constitution has been systematically misquoted to justify the carrying of personal arms.
Ultra-rightism should not be glossed as
the right of self-determination and opposition to "big government" carried to excess. It is and always has been a pathological expression of extreme views which are too often tolerated in the mainstream. Public figures should be more willing to speak out — as President Kennedy did against the John Birchites with their terrorist Minutemen fringe - against those who evade their social responsibility by finding "a bullet-proof vests, and 200,000 rounds of simple solution, an appealing slogan or ammunition. If the cheque had not a convenient scapegoat". Of the famaroused suspicion, these arms would iliar trio of anti-black, anti-communist and anti-Jewish ideology, only the last still survives. No wonder that members to hand. The familiarity of America's of the Michigan Militia use pictures of gun culture does not lessen the threat | Bill and Hillary Clinton for target pracwhich it poses, offering angry white tice and that atheistic Washington has replaced the godless Soviets in their sights. With the mainstream Republi-The US seems fated now to confront | can movement captured by the simple slogans of Newt Gingrich, it is not surprising that the spectrum has The first question concerns their ori- shifted unhappily further to the right.



Letters to the Editor

Panic stations on the railways

JAMES Sherwood, winner of the rail-privatisation bid for the East Coast, believes: for the East Coast, believes:
"We have to try and break the
communist approach to running a railway" (Private train
chief rails at communists,
March 30). In 1988, when the
East was still reddish, after a
week's travelling through the
Siberian winter, my train's
arrival in Beijing was punctual to the second.
During 1996 I have so for

During 1996 I have so far travelled between Bangor and London 10 times. The average delay on arrival has been about 50 minutes, I am in fact writing this letter on a train from Euston. We have so far received broadcast apologies for delays resulting from: a lo-compliant on fire near Willescomotive on fire near Willesden, late arrival of the previous train at Euston, non-appearance of a guard, and a locomotive with failed brakes on the line ahead — and we haven't reached Watford.

Philip Steele. Fron Deg, Gallt y Foel, Demiolen, Gwynedd LL55 3EF.

P early on Saturday to catch the first train from Darlington to get me to Birmingham for a 10.30am meet-ing. Panic! Train delayed for BY ALMOST any standards a company rates brands according to a formula which sold over \$30 billion world-wide including sales, market position, sector trends and internationalisation reckons 43 minutes around Doncaster. No need for panic. Chairman Kent. Vice-chairman is delayed on a train from Warrington. Information officer is elayed on a train from Hertfordshire; another is delayed on a train from London, Meet ing start time is delayed until 11.10am, and I have to leave before the end to get my train back to Darlington. That one was delayed in Doncaster.

Thank you British Rail, or whatever you are now called. 21 Countisbury Road Norton, Stockton on Tees, Cleveland TS20 1PY.

IOW odd — most histori-ans think the Regius Pro-fessorship of history at Oxford should go to an eminent historian rather than to a "household name" (Professor Pooter for a plum post, March 30). Sir John Elliott's work on Spain has a lot to say to anyone interested in the decline of a great imperial state. Robert Evans's The Making of the Habsburg Empire shows (among many other things) that a culture steeped in Roman Catholi-cism like Austria's is the result of deliberate military and political action — a find ing that helps one to under stand the world at any time. So much for "arid scholar-ship". Simon Schama, David Cannadine and Linda Colley are fine historians too, but "high profile" in the media needn't mean greater effec-tiveness as professor.

Cambridge CB1 2QA. Please include a full postal ddress, even on e-mailed number. We may edit letters. We regret we cannot acknowledge tters not used.

John Rosselli. 98 Sturton Street,

Mr Blair's bluff ballot

you praise so highly (Leader, March 30), has nothing to do with democracy and every-thing to do with political

It is not just that individual members will have no oppor-tunity to amend details of the wide-ranging policies put for-ward or that it will side-line both the unions and the policy-making process of the Labour Party itself, though

these are important.

The new Blair manoeuvre would replace the collectivist determination of policy by the collection of individual opinions about policies he has already determined. This would mean discarding the democratic traditions of the Labour movement for the use of cheap discredited populist methods that would give him the answers he wants without any mesningful dissent.

HE decision by Tuny
Blair to ballot the individual vidual members of the Labour Party to endorse his pre-election manifesto, which you praise so highly (Laeder to the party is individual) better informed, more able to the party's individual union membership. resist media pressure, and more willing to experiment when they are engaged in collective discussions and deci-sion-making. This is in stark contrast to their power as in-dividuals isolated within the confines of their own homes with only a blaring TV, the Sun, the Mirror or even the Guardian to keep them com-pany. Undoubtedly Tony Blair knows all about this, for he knows what to avoid in order to get a tame, lame membership that is identified only through their signatures on bankers' orders.

(Prof) Vic Allen. Hainsworth House, Damens Lane, Keighley BD22 7AR.

GOOD, ISN'T IT! MY MOTHER'S A PROFESSIONAL DOLL'S HOUSE

TONY Blair's scheme in-volves putting an una-mendable NEC document to conference. This will then be Stafford ST16 3DB.

Stop and search for the motive

APOLICE state is one in which the police determine the content as well as the mode of implementation of the law. At the end of this week, as a result of legislation about to be rushed through

resulted in a low turn-out, the party would be damaged. Mr Blair announced his proposal with little consulta-tion of his NEC colleagues and without proper discus-sion. By excluding trade-union members from the ballot, he is in effect creating a two-tier party by diktat. Trevor Fisher.

rejecting the NEC docum

49 Lovatt Street

Booted out

1) represent a refreshing dose

Although the Military Cor-rective Training Centre

works well in equipping

recalcitrant soldiers to return to the armed forces, research

has consistently shown that

The same will be true of the membership ballot.

Under these circumstances, it is a foregone conclusion that the document will be apboth Houses of Parliament, the police will be able under the authority of a senior officer to stop any pedestrian and search him or her, together with anything they might be carrying, for articles of any kind that could be used for proved. No sensible party member will vote against the manifesto in the run-up to a any purpose connected with the commission, preparation General Election. It is difficult to see how this can be a or instigation of what the Bill genuine exercise in participation. If the consequent apathy describes as terrorism". These powers may specifi-

cally be exercised even where the police officer has no sus-picion, reasonable or otherwise, about the person he or she is searching. The Act will herald a return to and will fully legitimise the arbitrary stop, search and arrest pow-ers that were such a stain on our criminal process before the enactment of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act in

This power, and others in-cluded in the Bill allowing for the search of non-residen-GENERAL Sir David Rams-botham's criticisms of unaccompanied goods and proposals to place civilian the imposition of police cor-young offenders in the mili- dons, are being smuggled tary prison at Colchester through Parliament at short (Boot camps 'muddle', April notice under the catch-all camouflage of the "terrorist

They build on the already draconian expansion of the anti-terrorism law that was achieved with the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act. enacted after the Northern Ireland ceasefires were in place in 1994.

military-style regimes do not reduce reoffending by civilian The police seem willing to young offenders. First, the two groups are very different. Detainees sent to the Military Corrective Training Centre have committed breaches of service discipline, most of which would not constitute criminal offences.

Secondly, detainees who return to the armed forces have the incentive of a future esprit de corps. In contrast, young offenders are often released to unemployment and the inner-city problems which helped to lead them into crime in the first place.

The best chance of steering young offenders away from further crime lies in regimes providing high-quality educa-tion, training, help with drug and alcohol abuse and highly focused work to change atti tudes to offending. Paul Cavadino. Affairs Consortium. 169 Clapham Road, . London SW9 OPU.

use the fear of terrorism as an intimidatory device with which radically to expand their power over the ordinary citizen. It can now only be a matter of time before Parliament turns the full force of the terrorism laws on mainstream, extra-parliamentary

In the light of the refusal of the official Opposition to per-form its constitutional duty in matters relating to civil lib erties, it is important that new means are devised for holding the police accountable for their actions. It is imperative that these new powers should be cautiously and carefully deployed, and that the police should continue to understand that, though they may now be the masters of the politicians, they remain the servants of the public. (Dr) C A Gearty. Civil Liberties Research Unit,

King's College London, Strand London WE2R 2LS.

out children, who have a clear preference for the free-Willaston, Nantwich. dom of domesticity over | Cheshire CW56QZ.

Another leukaemia enquiry nuked

A woman's right to choose

REALISE that staying at career, but frequently we only home in domestic bliss is whisper these desires to one

not everyone's choice, but I another lest we be seen as believe Catherine Hakim traitors to the feminist cause.

THE report on childhood detected in house dust Child-leukaemia around the ren are particularly vulneranuclear reprocessing plant at Sellafield by the Government's Committee on the Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment (Cancer cluster 'not radiation', March 28) is disappointing Once again a government committee has muffed its opportunity to diagnose the real causes of these deaths. Like the Black Committee of 1984, it dismisses radiation as a cause because the levels are "far too." because the levels are "far too

chores, March 29) has a point

when she asserts that many

women would jump at the

chance to stay at home. I have discussed this issue with sev-

eral women of my acquaint-

ance, and we all conclude that home life is very nice thank

you. These are all educated women, both with and with-

In the Sellafield area we know that sand and dirt on the beaches contains radioactive particles. Some of this is blown inland and has been

ren are particularly vulnera-ble since they get this dirt on their hands and, if they lick them, small amounts of radio-active material will be metab-

Yet why should this be?

Why should women be forced

into a career any more than

they should be forced into a

life among the dusters? And perhaps there is an equal number of men who would

prefer to stay at home. If only they dared to say so. Nicki Griffin.

72 Moorfields.

olised into their bodies. Yet it is possible to go around with a Geiger counter and honestly conclude that radiation levels differ little from normal. This is because one of the main cancer induc-ers is alpha radiation. Alpha particles cannot penetrate the skin, but when metabolised they do continuous damage to whatever organ they land in. (Dr) Phil Nicholson. University of Strathclyde, 107 Rottenrow, Glasgow G4 0NG.

The NHS: a diagnosis and a prescription

Guisborou

Cleveland TS14 7LX.

HIS month sees the intro-duction of new guidelines for continuing care within the NHS. My wife suffered a severe stroke 18 months ago, and has been well looked after in NHS hospitals. Partly para-lysed, seriously brain-dam-aged and severely afflicted by painful arthritis, she is totally department on pursing care.

dependent on nursing care.
Yet it has been made plain
to me that, under the new
guidelines, her stay in hospital may possibly be termi-nated, and that an alternative could be transfer to a nursing home, at our own expense until our savings have been largely exhausted.

My wife is, I fear, but one of

many who are threatened by a similar fate. The dehuman-isation of Britain's National future role of cottage/commu-Health Service is almost complete. Peter Orr. 17 Berkley Drive,

WE welcome John Major's statement that cottage/ community hospitals should be the cornerstone of health care into the 21st century However, it rings a little hol low when one considers that since 1980, some 200 cottage hospitals have been closed. Another 30 are under threat. If the Prime Minister and

nity hospitals, they must an-nounce an immediate moratorium on cottage-hospital closures; veto hospital trusts' plans to centralise services on large District General Rospital sites; and establish a work ing party to examine the role of community hospitals, such as those at Ystradgynlais in South Wales, Burford in Oxfordshire and North Lambeth. Michael Walker.

Director, NHS Support Federation. 37-39 Great Guildford Street, London SE1 0ES.

A Country Diary

CHESHIRE: The box-shaped declining in recent years. I hawthorn hedgerows that line the roads and lanes out of the village had lost their drab, grey winter sillouettes, and by some trick of the light on a by some irick of the light on a bright sumny day, were tinged with a rich red-purple haze. Close up, I could see that each roughly-clipped branch was loaded with deep red leaf buds, still firmly closed. On the verges the feathery leaves of cow parsley had started to appear along with those of dandelion and primrose, but were as advanced as the colts. foot whose yellow flowers dot-ted the occasional patches of waste ground well before its leaves had broken the surface. About three-quarters of a mile out of the village I reached the local rookery in a narrow plantation of beech and oak trees alongside the road. It was established in the late 1940s when there were eight other rookeries within a two-mile radius. Today this small colony is the only one remaining and it has been

to watch the owners flying in. some carrying the materials needed to repair wind damage, whilst four birds appeared to be disputing the ownership of one of the larger structures. Two nests had been built away from the main group or the other side. main group, on the other side of the road, each in its own tree, one a silver birch, the other a sycamore. Neither height of the mature beeches opposite, and the crowns of both, together with respective nests, were swaying omi-nously in the wind. I finally reached the old brickwork site, where the hawthorns are site, where the nawmorns are trees, and spent the remainder of my afternoon watching a pair of stonechats feeding fram their perch on a low hedge. Both stood tall, like miniature guardsmen, the male resplendent with black head, white soller and said stood tall. head, white collar and red breast

J M THOMPSON

judged not just by the business ratios | around \$35 billion dollars. (Don't even ask how many starving children that would feed). The stakes Pepsi is pitching for today are extremely high. The company will have to sell many hundreds of millions of extra cans simply to get back the

The choice of a blue generation

But can Pepsi's colour change really be worth \$500 million?

6.6 per cent during a depressed year for that it is the most expensive in the

the world economy is some kind of a world. If you wanted to buy the name

success story. But not necessarily if | Coca Cola - which, by the way, is the

that company happens to be called second most recognised word in the Pepsi-Cola. Because success for Pepsi is | whole world after OK - it would cost they taught you at Harvard Business School but by how well it does relative to The Other Company which also sells a similar syrupy water with additives. Pepsi still only manages a third of Coca-Cola's global sales. Worse, Coke now earns 80 per cent of its profits from overseas drinks, according to Business Week, against Pepsi's 6 per cent. The two companies have been slugging it out with each other for over 100 years | colour is important. It represents a and today Pepsi responds with one of dash for freedom in a business world the biggest marketing ploys ever made anywhere - a \$500 million campaign to larity. Blue is supposed to denote traditell the waiting world not about a huge acquisition, not about a startling new product, not about a revolutionary new flavour for its cola: something much | and Pepsi with the Republicans the new bigger than that. It is changing the colour-coding will emphasise the differcolour of its can from red, white and blue to what is described as electric thing we don't, this may not turn out to

blue. Wow. of American politics where interna-On one level this is the twentieth century's homage to vacuity. On another it is a marketing war that defines the American business dream. Coca Cola has turned something with almost no intrinsic value into one of the big-

Britain, we won't be able to answer the big question until someone in authority tells us whether blue Pepsi represents gest wealth-creating machines on earth. New Labour or not. On that one we will The US journal Financial World which | quietly pass. A word by any other name . . .

The BBC's dilemma is telling us something about ourselves

shock that even in death he has left an until "outed" by Lawrence, Joyce and unexploded grenade - with 41 exple | more recently, Philip Larkin who tives undeleted - within the portals of brought it within sight of the A level the BBC. One of the first tasks of the syllabus. This won't shock a generation BBC's new DG. Sir Christopher Bland, is a letter from Virginia Bottomley about public dissatisfaction over taste and decency on television. It coincides with next month's posthumous screening of the two plays Potter penned against a real-time deadline, Karaoke and Cold Lazarus, The BBC is planning to show Karaoke on BBC1 five minutes after the 9 pm watershed even though it breaks BBC conventions about the most

popular four letter word. Just why this word retains such a power to shock - unlike its synonym or two words that dare not speak their "bonk" — is a bit of a mystery. It traces its literary origins before the start of the seventeenth century, though Shakespeare and Fletcher were content to use unspeakable would soon become a borsynonyms. For over 100 years it was too ing cliche. What would we do then?

IT IS typical of Dennis Potter's power to | shocking even for slang dictionaries brought up on Hollywood thrillers, late night television showings, rap songs or primary school playground talk. News-papers, like television, reflect new realities. When we last wrote about this five years ago, the number of usages in the Guardian and Independent combined was 125 a year. It is now more than twice as high at 328. Historians may find it curious that in the age of deregulation, the Government has not seen it fit to deregulate language. Maybe we have a deep pyschological need for one name. If the floodgates opened then, perish the thought, a word that had taken so many centuries to become

money being spent on promoting this

campaign and ensuring that all cans all

over the world turn blue today in histo-

ry's most expensive colour change. The

where competition so often breeds simi-

tion, conservativeness and reliability.

To the extent that Coke is sometimes

associated with the Democratic Party

ence. But, unless Pepsi knows some-

be a very smart political move in terms

tional franchises sometimes follow the

flag. As for the political implications for

Diary

Matthew Norman

R Richard Scott's attack on the Civil Service for its "culture of secrecy" has had a predictably potent effect . . so po-tent, indeed, that its head Sir Robin Butler is striving to suppress an Observer survey into Whitehall attitudes. He has written to two of the largest unions (both of which have cooperated with the paper) demanding they stop several thousand members filling in questionnaires. A livid Sir Robin warns that the sharing of thoughts on morale, job se-curity, political influence and privatisation would be a breach of the disciplinary code: apparently — and this morsel we should take with a sprinkling of salt — such a survey could undermine Whitehall's "political im-partiality". The civil servants themselves are not only ignoring Sir Robin, but are giggling at him as they do so. And perhaps it is a little foolish to threaten people with punishment for answering an entirely anonymous questionnaire.

ymity is a Whitehall employee with news of a distressing reaction to the item here about the sudden removal of beef from the Health Department's canteen. Dynamo Dorrell was known to be furious, as was the man responsible for internal management. Joe Pilling. "What makes their discomfiture even more enjoyable," says my correspondent. "is that the canteen is privatised, and simply following the logic of the market. Brilliant.

Stop ::

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OHN Martin writes from Liverpool, impudently asking how many free neals the owner taurant of the Month (in Olympia, west London). which serves nothing but steak — supplied in return for "the free advert" on March 24. The answer, Mr Martin, is one. One free advert, one free meal . . . That's the Diary's easy-to-follow price guide. Mr Martin will be especially pleased to learn that my free 12-ounce rump, cooked rare, was superb, as was the free bottle of 1988 Chateauneuf du Pape with which it was washed down.

HE long-awaited paperback print of Terry Major-Ball's autobiography — Major Major, Memories Of An Older Brother (published in arrive The author himself appears on the cover holding a gnome, alongside this quote from Auberon Waugh: "This brilliantly enjoyable book . . . A man would have to be made of stone not to find Major Major exquisitely funny." Shortly. Terry leaves aboard a Qantas jet for the Melhourne Flower Show, but will not he promoting his opus there. "Oh no, that would he quite wrong, as I'm going us a guest of the state of Vic-toria." he tells me. "I'm very much looking forward to it. I'm sure the Australians will all be perfect ladies and gentlemen.

HE postbag to "Kelly's Dilemma" almost bulges. You may recall that the problem facing Graham Kelly, chief executive of the FA. surrounds a dinner in May at which L'efa head Lennart Johans sen is due to speak. Mr Kelly is loath to offend so powerful a figure by boycotting the event because women guests are unwelcome and yet, having just avoided another do on similar grounds, he has his reputation as football's Andrea Dworkin to think about. So what should be do? The Reverend Paul Matthews suggests that he does go, but eschewing the black tie in tavour of "something pink, frilly and flowing". The notion is as ungodiy as it's ab-surd: with Mr Kelly's buttermilk complexion, pink would be calamitous.

ROM Cambodia comes a ray of sunshine for our farmers. "The English have 11 million mad cows," says a lively, if inaccurate, leader in the Cambodia Daily, "and this country has roughly the same number of mad landmines. Surely the solution is here before our very eyes in black and white?" Rumours that Lord William Rees-Morg has joined the paper as chief leader-writer were dismissed yesterday as April Fool merriment.



Danger — mole and bear on the loose

Commentary

Hugo Young

HIS is a story of the minister as mole. The mole burrows in the dark, to make the mounds and tunnels he dare not build by light of day. In this story, the British govern-ment, which has often cursed this story, the British government, which has often cursed the moles who subvert it by exposure from within, has itself become the subverter of a structure it helped baild and pretends to support. It is quietly seeking to undermine the European Court of Human Rights at Strasbourg the European Court of Human Rights at Strasbourg the European Court of Human Rights at Strasbourg traditions". In other words, except for "manifest" violations, let every state do its own thing.

Malcolm Rifkind.

Modern Conservatives have never loved this court. Although a Tory government, under Churchill, built it and drafted the human-rights convention it operates, it has been swept into the fear and loathing of all things European which have gripped the Thatcher and Major govern ments. Last autumn, Mr Major, to keep his rabid sceptics sweet, even hinted from the despatch box that Britain was reviewing her member latest judgment, marginally rebuking Britain over the SAS killings of IRA terrorists in Gibraltar in 1988, was one ship. Not long after, Mr Hesel

alternative. Last month, Mr Rifkind cir-

culated a paper inside the Council of Europe, mother-lode of the convention and the court, proposing an enforced adjustment in judicial atti-tudes. The occasion was entic-ing. Because of a massive overload of cases, the court structure is set for a modest streamlining, and Britain thinks it knows what is also needed: greater respect by these Euro-judges for

The court already recog-nises some national differences. Pornography, for example, is accepted as a matter where different countries have different tolerance levels and must be allowed their margins of discretion. What Rifkind wants is something firmer, decreed from on high by governments, for-mally curbing any court rul-ing that interferes with "long-standing laws and practices". or with proper respect for "regional and national

own thing.

that London rejected and wouldn't obey. Both lots of words were pretty empty ranting. But now an alternative has emerged. The mole's significant to the street of the usual separation of powers. He wants ministers to tell the court how it should bence forth behave. It's as if the separation of powers. He wants ministers to tell the court how it should hence-forth behave. It's as if the struction to the Law Lords to desist from further exten-sions of judicial review. In that guise, such interference would immediately be intolerable.

But the proposal is contam-inated, second, by obvious bad faith. It exalts the place of "democratic institutions and tribunals in Member States". as against the place of the Court of Human Rights. Yet Rifkind and his colleagues have spent the past 17 years resisting the incorporation of the convention into British law, by far the most direct route to ensuring its interpretation in accordance with the very "national perceptions" and "differing legal traditions" they're now concerned

T is, in short, a bid for po-litical supremacy. Britain seeks to mobilise other governments against a court that has been more or less inconvenient to all of them. It is a paradox, and could be a tragedy, that this should coincide with the en-Europe, and therefore of the court's reach, to former Communist countries - many of them eager for, though inex-perienced in, human rights and the rule of law. Britain, founder-member of a system devised to build such universal values into post-Nazi Europe, now behaves as the chief accomplice of forces that would wreck its applica-

Russia, scandalously, has just been admitted to the Council of Europe on the basis of promises, yet to be anywhere near fulfilled, that she will meet the standards of the human rights convention. This was not a legal decision but a political one, pushed by Germany and backed by Britain, in the teeth of every objective assessment, including the Council of Europe's own, of Russia's suitability in terms of either commitment to democracy, or observemes of human rights or observemes human rights, or observance of the rule of law.

Variable geometry, in Russia's case, admits into the concept of "human rights" practices that have no place within even its largest defin-ing circle. The barbarities in Chechenia show utter contempt for minorities. A promise to curb capital pun-ishment, and abolish it within three years, has been followed by a sharp rise in executions authorised by the Yeltsin government on the basis, among other things, that they couldn't afford to keep everyone in prison. The wholly political nature of Russian admission, desired not least because it might take some heat out of pres-sure to let Russia into Nato, exposes the convention to exposes the convention to contempt and seize-up, as the cases multiply and the court is choked by litigants demanding what Moscow will never willingly permit.

The Rifkind proposition would touch these destructive

developments. It might, if implemented, preserve the court from an affliction of cases — but only by sharply extending the definition of what member countries should be permitted to do, in the name of local custom and practice, without being found in breach of the convention. Ac-tually, it sends the opposite signals to the ones which this great embrace of East by West, this wonderful apparition of democracy and the tion to post-Communist rule of law in regions never

Europe. What Britain subversively speaks for is a "variable geometry" of human rights. The epicentre of its destructive effect will be Russia.

Bussia examplement has that the court need the politics of governments. And if Germany and France, has

> Nor is that the end of our sweetly sibilant duplicity. Conscious that its bona fides might be questioned, the For-eign Office notes, protesting loyalty to the convention, that Britain was among the first countries to ratify the deci-sion that the court should, for the sake of efficiency, be streamlined It omits the earlier fact that, along with Tur-key, Britain stood alone in opposing the decision to streamline it in the first place. We did not want any streamlining, positively recoiled from more efficient

justice, and now seek to undermine, through these mole-ish suggestions, any chance that fundamental human rights, in a continent suddenly extended towards countries which stand in des-perate need of them. will achieve the juridical support they need.

Before the present court, and the commission whose

adjudications precede it, Britain is arraigned more often than other members, largely because of her refusal to let the domestic courts do the work Before the new court, if the system were to work as it should, Russia would take the lead as most frequent at-tender. What the Rifkind paper foreshadows is a truly grim compact, whereby the oldest signatory to the con-vention comes to the rescue of the newest, each complicit in devaluing human rights and forestalling the judgments which they find not to their political taste. This is the highest price yet paid to Tory Euro-scepticism. Russia's premature accession was a big enough catastrophe for the Strasbourg system. Rifkind's subversive proposal would push it towards demolition.

Peasants' lives this or governments. And if this does not make the message strong enough, another text will: Britain, along with Germany and Parisin kind. said there will be no more money for the court, even though its likely case-load will be doubled



George Monbiot

came to Dominica by way of a ham sandwich programme to slaughter

every pig in Haiti.
To the peasants producing most of Haiti's food, the programme was devastating. Their small black pigs, which largely fended for themselves, were so critical to their economy that the same word was used for "pig" and for "bank". People hid their pigs in holes and caves, but Presi-dent Duvalier's dreaded Tontons Macoutes rooted the animals out and had them shot. Even quarantined herds were

exterminated.
The US Agency for Interna-tional Development (USAID) argued that the slaughter should be seen as less of a problem than an opportunity. By replacing the small black pigs with large white ones from the US, Haiti could become a pork exporter, and a lucky new participant in the agricultural

economy. The new pigs grew fast, but needed as much pampering as the Duvaliers. While the peasants lived in bamboo shacks and ate only the food they grew for themselves, the white pigs needed concrete houses, showers and imported food and medicine. Pig-breeding became the pre-serve of big business, leaving the peasants with nothing. It is no exaggeration to say that the demise of the creale plg sped the demise of Baby Doc.

President Aristide's new government began to import black-pigs from other islands and distribute them to the peasants. As a result, when that the black pigs were com-munist pigs, whose owners should be rounded up as subversives. The white pigs, by contrast, were capitalist pigs, and a source of national pride. By the time Aristide returned, in 1994, the peasant economy had been strangled. and much of the peasants' land had been bought up by companies growing coffee or flowers for export to America.

Over the last 30 years the "Green Revolution" — which has introduced new crops and techniques to countries all over the Third World - has led to a tremendous increase in the volume of such staple foods as rice, maize and wheat, and has helped to avert the famines predicted in the 60s. But, one by one, its promises of a secure and healthy future are falling

A report published this week by the International Food Policy Research Institute confirms the surprising information that, even as the on a Spanish airliner. It soon spread down the Artibonite River and over the border into Haiti. The epidemic swiftly killed one-third of that country's pigs, but, by late 1981, it seemed to be fizzling out. The US was taking no chances, however. It funded a programme to slaughter the surprising food Policy Research Institute confirms the surprising information that, even as the amount of calories consumed has risen, the prevalence of nutrition-related diseases such as iron, zinc and vitation. A deficiency has remained unchanged or has even increased. The new high-yield grain varieties are typically lower in critical nutrients than the crops they replaced. Farmers, the institute suggests, should return to varieties they were grow-ing before, modified slightly

to produce higher yields.
Though they will have to re-learn most of what the Green Revolution has encouraged them to unlearn, peasant farmers may not be slow to take the institute's advice. Even in the Punjab, where the Green Revolution has ostensibly been most successful, high-tech farmers are reaping soil erosion, pesticide pollution and water shortages, indebtedness, declining in-comes and an unhealthy dependence on expensive farm imports.

S peasant producers are knocked out by bankruptcy and ecological collapse, farming all over the world is concentrating in the hands of those who can afford to invest in the most lucrative crops — luxuries for the First World. rather than necessities for the Third. This trend could scarcely suit the First World better. We get cheaper fruit, flowers, coffee and sugar as well as new markets for our surplus grain.
The Green Revolution was

engineered, funded and pro-moted largely by the US. which also happens to be the world's most aggressive food exporter. The two roles are not wholly unrelated. Senator Rudy Boschwitz, who helped new military leaders declared | that "if we do not ... discourage these developing countries from aiming at selfreliance now, our world-wide competitive position will continue to slide". In Haiti, USAID's objective

was a shift of "30 per cent of all cultivated land from the production of food to the production of export crops". At first this was impossible, as the peasant economy was too companies growing collee or the peasant economy was too flowers for export to America. Haiti is not the only country to have suffered from the replacement of old, slow-breeding crope or livestock with new, feracious varieties.



Sitting comfortably

Will Ken Clarke quit over Europe? Not this week, predicts Michael White - but even his patience with the sceptics of the right has its limits

or Daily Mail.

That the refrain "Chancellor dangerously isolated over Europe" is happily echoed by the Long John Silvers of the Euro-sceptical Tory right does not make life any easier. Lawson, Howe, Hurd—even-tually Thatcher herself—all recipients of the Mail's black spot, are wise to check their pension rights. Fortunately for liberal

Tories, still keen on Europe and the welfare state, their hero bounces back. Clarke is not going to resign over Easter, though he is capable of resignation. Like Denis Healey, whom he resembles, and

VEN for so resilient a politician as Kenneth Clarke it must occasionally be daunting to wake up and find you have been tipped the black spot yet again by Blind Pew in the Sun or Dally Mail. endum if Britain ever con-templates joining the prospective single European

currency.
There is more than a whiff of medieval theology about all this, as in "how many cabinet ministers can dance on the head of this particular pin?" Under the Maastricht terms, currencies which qualify for euro-membership will irrevo-cably fix their rates in 1999 and euros will start circulat-

ing by 2002. The currency markets may go mad. Nonetheless, for po-litical reasons rooted in their bloody history, the French and Germans remain deter-mined to do the deed, taking ley, whom he resembles, and Roy Jenkins, whom he likes mined to do the deed, taking (and who did resign Labour's deputy leadership over Europe in 1972), there is more to his life than politics. He has hinterland. That is the

not happen. It may or may not | the clout or resolution for a | turns his back or events give end in tears. | knock-down fight. When the | the right a chance to twist the But it is hard to see any | right falls in behind the lead- | nationalist ratchet.

British government, led by Major, Tony Blair or even Michael Fabricant, being there on Day 1. If they con-templated joining on Day 2 or 102 (the British fashion in matters European), Mr Major and Malcolm Rifkind, his and Matcolin Rights in a magnatic Foreign Secretary (and by then his successor?), would probably legislate to abolish the long-suffering pound and submit their decision to a referendum in which collective cabinet unity would be improceed.

be imposed. Which means that the Portillo-Lilley wing of the Cabi-net, as firm in their sceptical views as Chancellor Ken, would already have resigned en bloc rather than campaign for a Yes vote. Hilarious, isn't it? So why is a battered cabinet set to grapple tomorrow with such a raddled, hypothetical scenario?

Because the right — MPs, Jimmy Goldsmith and press barons alike — smells an op-portunity and is correct to do so. It looks at a cabinet in which the pro-Europeans are weaker than they have been since Harold Wilson's cabinet abandoned collective respon-

ership's compromise they will acquiesce. That leaves Ken Clarke. No

one's idea of a trimmer, he was overheard in a queue last was overheard in a queue last autumn saying: "I told Doug-las not to resign because I knew that when he went they would start having a go at me." Hence the whispering campaign. Ken demob-happy because he knows "he's in his last job": Ken on second 10-day foreign trip (first South America, then South Africa) this year. Ken at odds with this year, Ken at odds with Major over the size of the public sector — should it be

39 or 35 per cent?

Much of it is mischief, and even the laid-back Chancellor has occasionally been moved to make midnight protest calls to Fleet Street or denounce "soap opera stuff" at tions himself as a Major loyal-

nationalist ratchet. His disgruntlement is plain

to senior colleagues and there are signs that Mr Major is tweaking his tall (that plug for Chris Patten may be part of it) in retaliation. Clarke is unlikely to resign over a com-mitment to a referendum. Why should he? It is not a constitutional outrage, it is a long way away, and the de-tails will accommodate his view that collective responsi-bility is essential. More to the point, he is famously a prag-matist, by dint of long experi-ence a Euro-agnostic, not a Heathite federalist. A beltand-braces man who does not read the Maastricht Treaty would not die for it.

This row is about broader tone and direction. Last month Clarke passed Lloyd George's record, 16 years and the despatch box. While 318 days in office. He must be Michael Portillo, after an tired and has certainly done annus horribilis in 1995, posihis share. If the Tories persist in wrapping themselves in ist, Clarke-ite MPs are horri- the Union Jack and hacking fied at the very prospect of their man quitting. Surely, they say, if we win lic services", some as-yetthe election it will be thanks unforeseen event could make to his management of the him jack it in. His Treasury economy. "Lots of mileage left in old Ken," they tell each Howe, did just that before the other. True, but Clarke is in-



drinking could save his life. And it only costs 10p. All over the world, children like Mekonnen are suffering

from dehydration. A condition caused by acute diarrhoea which claims the lives of over 8,000 children every day of

But those children are dying needlessly. Because a simple solution of clean water, salt and sugar is often all it takes to help keep them alive.

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Manks sny f

Auto art forplebs

Agnelli, nephew of the famous Fiat chairman Gianni, lives in a Tuscan house designed by Michelangelo and drives a car designed by another Italian of rare genius, Dante Giacosa. Like every Italian over 25, the younger Agnelli and future chairman of Fiat (known as Giovannino) learnt to drive in a Fiat Cinquecento, Giacosa's three chairman of the chairman of the chairman of Fiat (known as Giovannino) learnt to drive in a Fiat Cinquecento, Giacosa's three chairman of the chairm masterplece, Italy's people's car and the car which made Flat. With André Citroen and Ferdinand Porsche before the

mechanical engineering at Turin's Politecnico before joining the Fabbrica Italiana Automobile Torino (Fiat) conglomerate in 1926. His first job was as a designer of liquid-cooled aero engines, but he soon turned his attention to when he transferred to Fiat's Futurist Lingotto plant (the one with the test track on the engine which was strung the roof) in 1929 as chief of the technical office.

Given the brief by "Sena-

tore" Agnelli to develop a well-engineered, sophistl cated, but quintessentially simple, small car for less than 5000 lire (about half the price of the cheapest existing Fiat), Giacosa produced a prototype called Zero A and was photographed with it atop the Andrate Pass during a test session in which the car reached 82kph on the Turin-Milan created a practical car, but not autostrada. Zero A, a tiny machine, but with real car char acter and grown-up looks, went into production as the

500A in 1938. Affectionately named Topolino (Little Mouse) on account of its cute and cheeky aspect, not to mention its manoeuv rability, the Cinquecento was not only at 3.2m length the smallest (car in production, but also the greatest advance in small car design since the Austin 7 of 1922 and, amazingly for a car with a minuswater-cooled, four-cylinder 20bhp engme, became the best-salling import in the US

It is fascinating that the three greatest car designs of the 1930s all acquired feral

minimalism. The Volkswagen was a tech-

nically precise machine with aerodynamic hodywork capable of cruising flat-out down Hitler's new autobahns. second world war, and Alec Is sigonis after it, Giacosa was one of the architects of the modern European car.

Giacosa, who has aged 91, was born in Rome and studied mechanical engineering and studied mechanical engineering states. long-travel suspension to cope with farmyard conditions. The Fiat 500A was different

an exquisite exercise in an exquisite exercise in miniaturism, perfectly adapted for Italy's cramped medieval streets. It had an exceptionally light perforated chassis, made rigid by the body. To maximise space, the radiator was mounted be out in front of the axle so as not to interfere with the accommodation of the two passengers. The 500A was rear-wheel

drive as Giacosa did not think front-wheel drive was yet technically mature, although it lost nothing by this cons vatism. The 500A was a delight to drive and, reinter preted in modern materials would remain relevant in one lacking in bella figura. At the 1948 Geneva Salon de

l'Automobile, a Giardiniera (four-seater estate version) came the first Flat to have heating and demisting as stan-dard. By 1955, 3.7 million To-polinos had been built and the old car made way for another Giacosa design, the Nuova Cinquacento, the familiar Fiat 500 which went into production in 1957 and remained there until 1972.

Giacosa was a passionate believer in radically simple engineering. Both technically and aesthetically, the Nuova Cinquecento betrays the influence of helicopter pioneer Corradino d'Ascanio's 1946 Piaggio Vespa motor scooter. He had visited the huge General nicknames and were all cre-ated as a result of dictatorial Motors Technical Center in Fiat became a symbol of Ita-



The mouse that roared . . . Dante Giacosa with his people's car — (top to bottom) the 1936 Zero A or Topolino, a sleeker 1949 version, and the familiar Nuova Cinquecento, in continuous production from 1957 until 1972

Warren Michigan and pronounced himself impressed with what he called a "modern Versailles", but his interpretation of the car could not have been more different from Chevrolet's: the 500 had a rear mounted 498cc air-cooled twin in a body design that was ingenious: there were few sharp corners or exposed seams and. imusual in the 1950s, the doors were virtually one-piece pressings. Major components were bolted directly to the bodywork, the engine and gearbox being attached at only two points. Like Olivetti, the little

ly's ricostruzione and of the | rows of seats give it a claim, 20 | hicle most adapatable to democratic modernity of Italian design. In 1959, the Nuova Cinquecento won the 1959 Compasso d'Oro, Italy's design Oscars.

In 1946 Giacosa was made responsible for all the group's vehicles, including tractors and trucks, and retired in 1970 after nearly half a century of benign innovation. His larger 1955 Selcento never had the appeal of the "cinque", but was immensely successful in its own right and was the basis for the extraordinary Multipla of 1956, whose imagi-

years before the Renault Espace, to be the very first of today's MPVs, although Fiat never took advantage of this

Giacosa was also responsible for the 1987 124 and the 1968 128. The latter was incontestably the best engineered small-medium car of its day and the former is with us still today ... as the Russian Lada: when Fiat built an enormous car plant at the new town of Togliatti, named after the then chairman of the Italian Com-munist Party, Giacosa's rug-ged 124 was chosen as the ve-

Soviet taste and technology. Dante Giacosa's elegant autobiography, I miei quar-anti anni di progettazione alla Fiat was published in 1979. He will always be remembered for one small car. But the Fiat Cinquecento is more than just a pleasant and ingenious vehicler it has become one of the symbols of our century, an everyday work of art.

Dante Giacosa, engineer and designer, born January 3, died March 31, 1996

Gerald Savory

Dramatics of live television

young actor in the 1930s — his parents were West End theatre names whose first play. George And Margaret, was a smash hit. A quarter of a century later, after a stint in North America, he turned from acting and dramaturey and became prominent in British TV drama at a time when productions were broadcast live

and watched by millions. The play that made Sa-vory's name in 1937 was one of those "crazy family" come-dies like Noel Coward's Hay Feper. Although the dialogue was neither witty nor the situation original, everything rang amusingly true, if banal. Sayory's work was full of light hearted fun and it had a twist the eponymous couple of its title (the long-awaited. long-dreaded guests) don't turn up until after the final curtain. By that point a then unknown actress. Irene Handl, had set the house on a roar with a three-minute

"spot" as an inaudible Cockney parlour maid. Savory went to Broadway with the play when it trans-ferred after its two years in the West End but it ran for only two months. Nevertheless he stayed on as an actor and after stints on Broadway he tried Hollywood script-writing for MGM. When he sniffed at both the text of Nin-otchka and its leading lady. Greta Garbo, Savory's en-gagement was ended before he could return to his office. Later, while touring in summer stock he learnt about directing plays for the new medium, television. A then unknown actress Grace Kelly whose father ran a television station in Chicago, led him into a new career as a television director. Returning to England in the 1950s to see one of his West End plays led

to television work and, as a director or producer of new writers, Savory had to con-tend with or cultivate radical new authors like Dennis Potter and David Mercer. What a theatre audience tolerated was not necessarily acceptable to the mass medium of television. When Potter wanted Prince Charming to strangle Cinderella, for example, Savory suspended the broadcast. Savory also had to

apologise publicly for upset-

There followed the short-lives

Rangoon spring and its brutal suppression.
Those who knew San Yu

say he was polite and like-able. During a visit to Burma

by Princess Anne, the nor-

mally reserved and tight-

lipped President San Yu sur-

prised his British guests by

expressing admiration for her

work for Save the Children, at

a time when official policy was to exclude all foreign vol-

untary organisations from

ERALD SAVORY ting a surprisingly large num-was a well-connected ber of viewers who took of ber of viewers who took of-fence when a character in Nemone Lethbridge's play Little Mastermind swore copiously. in Greek. While in the US Savory had

continued to write plays. His best remembered works were vehicles for star players like Robert Moriey in A Likely Tale (Globe, 1956) and A E Matthews, as a gentlemanly tramp, in A Month Of Sundays (Cambridge, 1957).

In the early 1960s viewers watched television drama as it took place. This added ten-sion to each production since mistakes could not be edited out and under Savory there might be as many as 140 single new plays every year for which he was responsible and 550 dramatic broadcasts.

Under Savory's supervision, first at Granada, then from 1965-1972 as BBC Television's head of plays, live drama gave way to taped recordings with more drama serials rather more drama serials rather than single plays. Savory produced many Wednesday Plays, and Plays of the Month, and programmes such as Take Three Girls, Elizabeth R. Churchill's People, Private Af-fairs, Love In A Cold Climate, The Pursuit Of Love and Dr Jekyli And Mr Hyde. As he lay dying, royalties arrived from Jack Watling's revival of George And Margaret 59 years

Eric Shorte

Gerald Savory, actor, playwright and television producer born November 17, 1909; died Febru-ary 9, 1998

Death Notices

United Retormed Church, Burlow Moor Road/Zetland Road, Chorlton, Manchester on Wednesday April 3rd 1996 at 1pm, killewed by Interment at Southern Cemotitry at 2.45pm. Flowers welcome, donation at desired to Greater Manchester Coatton of Disabled Pacipie. All enquiries and any messages of support to Pertiner, Jo and ison lies or 3 Mr Robert Barr, United Norwest Funda Services Manchester Rd, Chorlton M21 9PN Tel 0161 881 2212. WOODRUFF (nèe Walker), Betty. On March 18th aged 71 in a norsing home. For huneral details 0151-298 0250,

In Memoriam

MARSHALL, J.Richard, 11/11/45 - 2/4/95 Always loved and screen missed by Dilys "Joy and won are woven fine, A clothing for the east divine"

MARGEHALL , LRicherd, died April 2nd 1995 aged 49 years. To my hast and truest intend. Rammenhand with fond memories and affection: - Aghwer MARGHALL, J.Richerd, died April 2nd 1995. Secondary of the Land. 1965 Remembered always by Elec. Think where man's glory most begins and ends. And say my glory was I had such intends. MARREMALL, J. Richard, died 2nd April 1965 "Big questions lived, not just asked with the Issael", Ramembered with love.

To place your amountement telephol 0171 713 4567 Fax 0171 713 4129

Peter Clemoes

New life in old words

who transformed the field of Anglo-Saxon studies. Born in Southend-on-Sea, he was educated at Brentwood, Essex, but the second world war thwarted an early ambition to be an actor, just after he had won a place at Rada. He passed a relatively quiet war in Egypt and Germany. before enrolling to study English at Queen Mary College, London, from where he moved on to do postgraduate work at King's College, Cam-bridge, under Bruce Dickens

pressed a profound debt for undertaking to direct a stu-dent "at the awkward age of After gaining his doctorate in 1956, for a ground-breaking edition of the First Series Of Catholic Homilies Of Aelfric, a successful ventures in his 10th-century Anglo-Saxon ab redefined field; from 1963, gen-10th-century Anglo-Saxon ab-

ETER Clemoes, who has died aged 76, was a quietly effective figure of his professional life, becoming Elrington and Bosworth Professor of Anglo-Saxon Studies in 1969. Perhaps because he considered himself a late starter, he

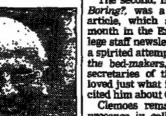
always encouraged younger scholars, who observed his methods — dogged, but never dull — and moved on. It is no accident that the current bolders of the chairs of Anglo-Saxon at both Oxford and Cambridge are Clemoes's At Cambridge, he broad

ened the emphasis of the teaching and research to in-clude the study of Latin writwhom Clemoes exings and manuscripts of the period, while maintaining the traditional inter-disciplinary link with Celtic and Norse cultures. Clemoes was at the heart of a number of highly loth-century Angio-Saxon abbot whose careful clarity of thought and expression matched his own, Clemoes spent five years in Reading University, before being appointed to what was to become the Cambridge Department of the Inter-



national Society of Anglo-Sax-

final publications offer an in-sight into the mark of the



onists, over whose second con-ference he presided in 1985; from 1985, founding director of Fontes Anglo-Saxonici, a register of written sources used in Anglo-Saxon England. All these ventures continue to from their daily running. Retirement gave Clemoes more chance to work on indi-vidual projects, and his two

man. Interactions Of Thought And Longuage In Old English Poetry (1995) was an intensely

hate the Soviet Union, de-

ing study on the thought and language of Old English poet-ry, based on 40 years close reading in the texts: a mighty book, the impact of which is still being assessed, and will be felt for many years. The second, Is Anglo-Saxon Boring? was a light-hearted article, which appeared last month in the Emmanuel College staff newsletter. It offered

a spirited attempt to convey to the bed-makers, porters and secretaries of the college be loved just what it was that excited him about Old English. Clemoes remained a daily presence in college until the end, quietly getting on with it; when his health allowed, he would cycle down from Ches-

terton, whose church and community he supported for many years. The day before he died he worked in college through the morning on the proof of his great edition of Aelfric, now

all but complete after more than four decades; lunch, fol-lowed by the customary game of bowls in the fellows' garden; more proofs; a tea-time chat with a colleague on an arcane point of Old English; home to his wife Jean, to whom he was devoted.

Andy Orchard

Peter Ciemoes, Anglo-Saxon scholar, born January 20, 1920; died March 16, 1996

personal and thought-provok- U San Yu

Tight-lipped dictator

ENERAL SAN YU, became a one-party state, authority and engineered in who has died aged 77, under a nominally civilian 1988 San Yu's dismissal. was Burma's president from 1981 to 1988 and an influential and trusted figure under General Ne Win's military dictatorship for nearly 30 years. It was in 1962 that Ne Win sent the civilian politicians packing, and San Yu be-came a member of the ruling

revolutionary council. Born in Prome of Sino-Burmese ancestry, he gave up his Rangoon medical studies to join Aung San's Japanesebacked Burma Independence Army in the later stages of the second world war, remained in the army postwar and held senior commands after independence in 1948. In March 1974. Burma

Vice-Admiral Michael Boyce, 53; Sir Jack Brab-ham, racing driver, 70; Gra-ham Bright, Conservative MP, 54; Linford Christie,

athlete, 36; Larry Coryell, jazz guitarist, 53; George MacDonald Fraser, poet and

Birthdays

constitution drawn up under San Yu's supervision. In 1976 San Yu was a target with President Ne Win —
 of a foiled assassination plot

by a group of junior officers. Subsequently Ne Win purged the ruling party and the party's secretary general, San Yu attempted to implement the coup plotters' ideas — joint ventures with foreign partners won some acceptance — yet neither Ne Win nor San Yu were flexible

In 1981 San Yu succee Ne Win as president, but Ne Win remained the ultimate

enough to persue economic

William Crawley U San Yu, soldier and politician, born 1918; died January 28, 1996

Burma.

author, 71; Paul Gambac-cini, broadcaster, 47; Catherine Gaskin, romantic novelist, 67; Brian Glover, actor, 62; Myra Green, director, East European Partnership, VSO, 58; Raymond Gubbay, classical music impresario, 50; Sir Alec Guinness, CH,

actor, 82 Sir Ian Hunter.

Keith, actress, 56; Sir Peter Middleton, deputy chairman. Barclays Bank, 62; Prof Ca mille Paglia, writer, controversialist, 49; Andrew Pudde phatt, general secretary, Liberty, 46; Dermot Reeve, cricketer, 33, Teddy Sher-ingham, footballer, 30; Sue Townsend, author, 50; Denis Tuohy, broadcaster, 59. impresario, 77; Penelope

Memorial Services

THE BARCHESS FATTHFULL A service of Themisgiving for the life and work of the Beromess Fatthull will take place in St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, all noon on Thursday 6 Jone. These wishing to attend are requised to apply for tickers to. The Rector's Sepretary, Room 6, 1 Utile Cookers, Westminster Abbey SWTF 3PL, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope. Tickets will be posted on 24th May.

Jackdaw



New weight

IN MON RA, a novel by Victor Pelevin published in 1992. the eponymous hero de-clares; "I realise at once and early on that only weightless ness can give man genuine freedom, which is why all my life I've been bored by all those Western radio voices and those books by various Solzhenitsyns. In my heart, of course. I loathed a state whose silent menace obliged every group of people who came together, even if only for a few seconds, to zealously imitate the vilest and bawdiest individual among them." There, in two sentences, Pelevin delivers the judgment of

his generation — he is in his early thirties — on both the Soviet system, and its sternest critics. This careless tossing aside of both totali-tarianism and dissidence, of the "various Solzhenitsyns along with a state of "silent menace", has become an essential posture for [writers]

come known as the "new" Russians are sometimes not new, not very young and rejected official communism while it was still in business, and official anti-communism when it was still being pun-ished. As they have won ished. As they have won wider recognition at home and abroad — attended by a barrage of criticism from the sixties generation, who regard them as an abomination — they have become bolder . . . In one sense — as Russian critics have noted — Russian critics have noted -

these writers are the first social realists: they depict the

... The "new" writers often

spise the sixties generation. and show only a perfunctory respect for the dissidents. Though clearly unable to resist poking about in the ruins and cloaca of a society they no longer regard as "ours", they are inclined to deny that they are part of a tradition, or interested in politics, or even literary citi-... struggling to cope with the ruins of a universe once entirely populated by good and evil figures. The writers who have be-tone known as the "new" zens of any definite country. "It's wrong to think that there's a Russian literature," says Pelevin. "There is nowhere Russian literature could come from. We all grew up amid McDonald's, dollars, American cars. What's specifically Russian about it all? The climate perhaps?

> Positive equity **DEMOLITION** of houses and deportations have the poten-tial to serve both as a deter-

> problem in punishing some-

John Lloyd analyses the state of the arts in post-Soviet Russia for the Landon Review of Books.

one for someone else's crimes. I would suggest a new policy. A condition for entry permits for Arabs from Judea, Samaria and Gaza would be the presentation of five guarantors, whose homes would serve as security. It would not only solve the legal and moral problem, but would speed up the pro-cess when it needs to be used. We could say, perhaps, that for car theft, we blow up two houses, for knife attacks, we blow up all five houses and deport the residents — all that by pre-agreed contract based on informed consent. And it might well reduce the number of Arabs entering

for more than say three guar-

AUDI ADMIRES Birtwistle because "I'm more interested

antees at any one timne.

Israel Pickholtz brings wis-

dom to bear on the problem of Jews and Arabs co-existing in the letters pages of the Jerusa-lem Post. rent and as a punishment for terrorists. However we know that there is a legal and moral In the wings

in music with a psychic, spiritual force behind it — the kind that will survive into the 21st century. Gawain also happens to be very accessible." He would like to stage Gawain or The Mask Of Ornheus in Amsterdam, and is pheas in Amsterdam, and is not put off by Punch And Judy's poor reception there, saying the size of the theatre was partly to blame. He believes that if Stockhaus were willing to "let go" of his works, his operas would be more widely circulated and appreciated. "But he insists on producing them himself, he wants them performed by his own family and associates. I think he's one of the great composers of the cen-tury, because what inspires his work is true artistic inour urban areas — especially if we computerise the system and allow no house to be used

> Saint François is another ex-traordinary piece of music theatre which connects with an audience. And I'm con-vinced that when Boulez finally writes his opera, it will be as extraordinary as Pelléas. "Opera houses have a res-

vention, true command of the

resources musically, theatri-

cally, aurally, Messiaen's

ponsibility to be the breeding ground for new work, but it has to come from the heart and soul of the artist. Life With An Idiot was a spontaneous work, fundamentally original, and that's what inoriginal, and that's what in-terested me. I'm doing the same with György Kuriág, but it's very hard. I can't say: 'Here are the dates for you, here's an orchestra'. I just have to keep meeting him, which I have been doing for



eight years, in the hope that one day we will get a work from him. I think he can produce something extraordinary. That's what I'm seeking — a rapport with artists, to allow an idea to emerge, to give them the feeling it can be anything, and to be there to receive it when it comes. Pierre Audi, who made his name at the Almeida Theatre in London and is now director of the Netherlands Opera, Inrviewed in Opera magazine.

Wired words

BEEPILEPSY: The brief seizure people sometimes suffer when their beepers go off, especially in vibrator mode. Characterised by physical spasms, goofy facial expres-sions and stopping speech in SALMON DAY: The experience of spending an entire day swimming upstream only to get screwed in the end CLIENT-SERVER ATTEN-

TION: Geek euphemism for having sex. "I went to the Oracle party the other night hoping for a little client-

CRASH TEST DUMMIES: Phose of us who pay for unstable, not-ready-for-primetime software marketed by greedy computer companies. PETER PANNING: The pro-cess of re-attaching a shadow to an object in a [computer] graphics application such as Photoshop. Those who Peter Pan are Wendys.

WAD WIDOW: A significant other who hardly ever sees his/her mate heavyes here. his/her mate because he/she is so busy creating .WAD scenario files for use in the [computer] games Doom, Doom II

ALTA VISTA FODDER: A list of misspellings and refor-mulations of your name, appended to your web site so that anyone searching can find your URL. The latest instalment of Wired

magazine's Jargon Watch. Jackdaw wants your jewels. Email jackdaw@guardian-.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R SER

Dan Glaister

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Financial Editor: Alex Brummer Telephone: 0171-239-9610 Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Britain accuses EC of back-door protectionism as Lille summit puts 'social clause' on agenda

G7 heads for deep rift over labour rights

HE festering row among the West's leading industrial nations over linking free trade to human rights will burst into the open today when a call by the European Commission for minimum global labour standards is set to split the Group of Seven down the middle.

Padraig Flynn, the EC Social Affairs Commissioner, will argue that free collective hargaining, free association and the abolition of child and the abolition of child by Mr Flynn today at an in-labour are fundamental formal lunch to close the sumrights that do not threaten competitiveness.

But Britain, supported by Canada and Japan, claims that the move is an attempt to defend the high-cost economies of the West from international competition and represents "protectionism by the back door".

The UK had been adamant in the run-up to the Lille jobs summit that the so-called 'social clause" should be left off the agenda, arguing that the meeting should focus on finding long-term solutions to

large chunk of his opening address to the need for "a few basic rules" to govern the greater freedom of trade ushered in by the conclusion of the seven-year Urnguay round of trade liberalisation the WTO. Some of the benefits

with Pat Buchanan's brand of the WTO could immediately be undermined."

Mr Chirac stressed that "harmonious development of of protectionism finding an echo in the United States, Mr Chirac said a lack of even the most rudimentary labour standards in some developing countries encouraged indus-trialised nations to turn their back on free trade.

mit. He is expected to say that "all over the world public opinion is becoming increasingly sensitive to the question of linking trade and employ-ment standards. This means that the issue must be faced and talked about. It simply can't be ducked or avoided.

Mr Flynn will add that matter sired was the reason it had recommended that the first ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organisation in Singapore in December

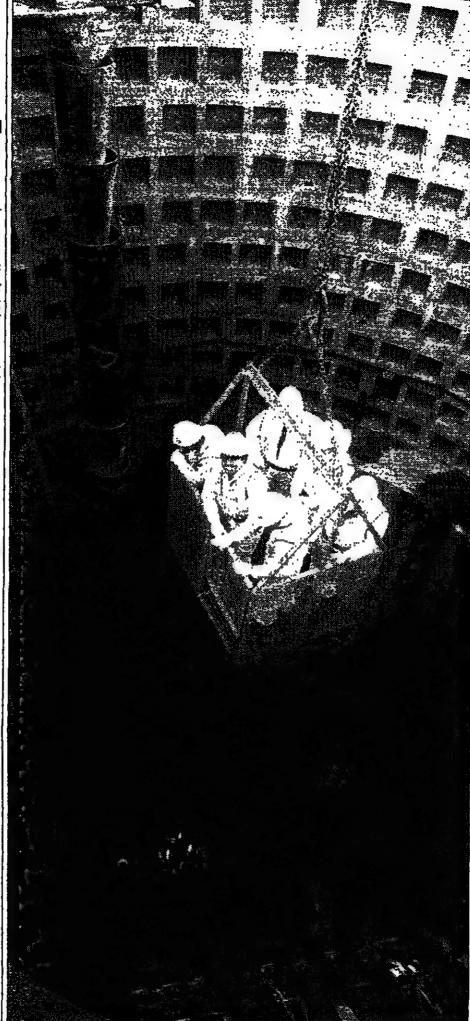
protectionism coming in through the back door. We are sceptical about the use of

world trade" would be vital if the West was to find a "third way" between the endemic job insecurity in North America and Europe's chronic level of unemployment.

The French President added that public opinion in the West could accept that lower wages, less extensive social security and different labour laws enabled developing countries to compete successfully for export markets. But he warned that other aspects of labour markets in developing countries would not be tolerated.
"Can it be accepted that

democracy be so grievously stretched in this great worldwide market? Can more or less disguised forms of adult or child slavery be tolerated? should set up a working The citizens of our countries the West's chronic unemployment problem.

However, French President Jacques Chirac, devoted a sury, said the WTO was the judge them to be intolerable."



Depth charge . . . Energy minister Tim Eggar (front, centre) was given an inside view of a six-mile tunnel bearing London Electricity's new £52 million circuit for south-west London, before it was commissioned yesterday

Job security is safe in our hands, Shephard says

yesterday <u>in a government</u> counter-offensive against perceptions of job insecurity, writes Larry Elliott in

She mounted a strong defence of the UK's labour

past 17 years. Speaking at the Group of Seven jobs summit in Lille, northern France, Mrs Shephard said it was impossi-ble for any administration to offer jobs for life but the Government was seeking to deliver "security of em-

MPLOYMENT Secretary Gillian Shephard to consumer confidence time workers did not want fired the first shots posed by job insecurity. posed by job insecurity.

Labour has taken up the theme as a key part of its

campaign strategy, believ-ing it will check the return of the "feelgood factor".

Mrs Shephard admitted that the transformation to market policies over the a more flexible labour market in Britain had involved "a lot of pain" but added Europe was now starting to

follow suit. She said there was no statistical evidence to support the notion that jobs had become less secure in recent

The average time spent in

had only half France's number of people on shortierm contracts.

Mrs Shephard concaded

there was a "perception" that insecurity was on the increase. "What has to be grasped is that there is this feeling within people, and we are dealing with that by our education and training reforms." Ministers at the jobs sum-

mit — the follow-up to a gathering in Detroit two years ago — are looking for ways to reduce the total of 22 million jobless people in With a year at most to go before the next election, the Government is increasingly same as 10 years ago — Japan and Canada. the United States, Britain,

A tighter tap on the water firms



Edited by Alex Brummer

OW that the outrage over remuneration in the electricity utilities ily, the water companies look

Yorkshire has already heaped opprobrium and ridicule on the whole industry; the Thames chief executive has paid with his job for the hubris of expanding into the deregulated sector of the market; and the regulator, Ian Byatt, can barely disguise his irritation at the industry's proposals last summer to in-troduce a degree of competi-tion into the industry.

Now Mr Byatt has the Government firmly on his side. Under the new scheme, industrial firms will have the freedom to buy from the cheapest water source, presumably in the hope of ratcheting down prices. But this may be more difficult in the water industry than in gas or electricity since there is no national grid in water and the cost of moving water long distances is

prohibitive.

Nevertheless, there is the possibility that greater competition could improve domestic access to water in times of shortage and eventu-

mands and have wasted management resources on expansion into deregulated markets, when they have failed to make a decent fist of their own role in the regu-

lated market.
But Labour, which com-plains loudly, has a problem: it once threatened to take the water companies back into public ownership. Having shrunk from that option, its complaints will carry much less clout.

income blocs

THE European Bank for Reconstruction and Deupheat in its latest assessment of the progress being made by the former Soviet bloc countries, from central planning to market-based economies. But it is clear that BT and Japan's NTT, they the process is entering a diffi-will be monitoring events cult, perhaps crucial, phase. | carefully.

Five years on, not one country in eastern and central Europe and what was the Soviet Union has seen output recover to pre-1990 levels. recover to pre-1990 levels.
Only two are expected to do so within the next two years.
Indeed, according to the raw data, many are in much Indeed, according to the raw data, many are in much

and understate recovery.
Nevertheless, the pain is acute. It may be that it is even more sharply felt because it is unevenly distributed. Expensive consumer goods in shops and showrooms across the old Soviet bloc bear witness to the fact that some have prof-

ited mightly, if not always honestly, from the changes. But pensioners, who have seen their fuel bills alone soar beyond their income, are unlikely to care much about the efficient allocation of

efficient allocation of resources.
Indeed, the region's voters are showing signs of disillusion. Poland, Hungary and Bulgaria, for example, have elected former Communists back into power. The economic figures may be improving but the feel-good factor. ing, but the feel-good factor has yet to emerge. And this summer it is Russia's turn to go to the polls.

Humpty Dumpty

T SEEMS incredible that after one of the longest and most complex anti-trust cases in US business history, resulting in the break-up of the old AT&T into a series of regional Bell companies in 1984, Humpty Dumpty is being put back together again.

The merger between SBC Communications of Texas and Pacific Telesis of California may only be worth a mere £11 billion (against the £35 billion BT/Cable & Wir-less proposel), but it heraids a new phase in the US telecom munications industry.

The new telecoms bill. steered through Congress by Vice-President Al Gore, was ally bring down prices.

However, if any of this is to work Mr Byatt will need to come down hard on his charges. It is improperable might prevent the regulations which charges. It is unacceptable might prevent the United that they have been so slow in tition de mation superhighway, fed by Hollywood's entertainmen software industry, which would lead the world.

The combined Texas and

Californian group, to be known from now on as SBC Communications, will have its headquarters in San Antonio and provide long-distance, internet and international services from San Francisco.
The deal leaves open the

possibility that SBC will choose to grow further or could be sucked back into the new demerged AT&T — cur-rently breaking itself down into three separate compa nies, telecoms, computers and telephone hardware — as the IIS felecoms industry reforms

Although the united haby bells will, for now, not be strong competition for the real giants of international telecommunications such as

AT&T is thought to have designs upon the UK Mercury network, which the competition authorities certainly will worse shape than before.

The EBRD is rightly careful to note that the official figures may overstate decline its sphere of influence.

of their entitlement from either scheme for at least

three years after the allot-

The report shows pension contributions made for ex-

£452,000 to £895,843 over

made for an overseas direc-

tor asked to stay on after

creased from £3.48 million

to £4.11 million over the

Group chief executive Malcolm Williamson saw

his salary rise by £48,000 to

£673,000. Chairman Patrick

Gillam's remuneration in

creased by £87,000 to

ments are granted.

the full-year period.

nuclear sell-off

Simon Boavis Incustrial Editor

■HE Government faces an uphill struggle in as-sembling a syndicate of ks to handle its ena hillion nuclear privatisaleading City players are un-easy about optimistic fore-casts for the industry.

Banks wishing to be global co-ordinators have until April 10 to apply to the Govern-ment and a shortlist is likely to be selected the following work. But worries are emerging in the City about the foreeasts drawn up by the Gov-ernment's own advisers, Barclays de Zoete Wedd.

There is particular concern over predictions that the industry can improve the performance of the seven advanced gas-couled reactors being sold alongside the Strewell B pressurised water reactor in Suffolk.

RZW is assuming the reactors will achieve output levels of 82 3 per cent, way ahead of the industry average of nearer 70 per cent. There are also fears that

RZW's assumptions on future wholesale electricity prices in the so-called pool are too gen erous. The bank predicts prices will remain at 2.4p a kilowatt hour, although City experts are convinced they

could collapse. The two issues are key to the valuation of British Enermy, the company formed by the Government to own the

1

reactors after the sell-off in July. BZW has hinted that, based on its assumptions, the value of the industry would

be £2.4 billion-£2.8 billion.
But the City disputes this.
One source said there was a growing view that the forecasts were "over the top". Antion, and growing signs that leading City players are unleasty about optimistic forecasts for the industry.

Ranks wishing to be global clear economics, has argued that output levels from the reactors would imply a valua-tion of nearer £1 billion. He

estimates the industry could have zero value if output slipped back towards 65 per Unusually, the Government hinted at the valuation nearly a year ago in its White Paper on nuclear power. That indicated the sell-off would produce at least 52.6 billion.

Ripper Williams

Banks shy from Factory freeze stokes recession fear

EARS that Britain's manufacturing industry is heading for recession were strengthened last night as a survey of producers showed that the factory sector had been stagnant for the last seven months.

below 50 per cent for the second month, indicating

contraction.

Adam Cole, an economist at HSBC James Capel, said: "The overall PMI suggested that manufacturing output Despite improving demand could fall in the first quarter for consumer goods, the of this year. This would be the

which gives a snapshot of output. Factory-gate prices | George.

factory activity, was a third registered their biggest fall CIPS said improved consecutive fall in the since the survey began in demand for consumer goods Purchasing Managers' Index July 1991, and output fell to meant that some sectors (PMI). The headline rate was its lowest level since October within manufacturing were

production, stocks rose in 20 per cent of companies, reflecting weak domestic and foreign demand. Firms laid off workers for the third month in a row.
But City analysts said the

for consumer goods, the monthly Chartered Institute second successive quarterly of Purchasing and Supply fall, leaving the sector survey for March made clear that the poor performance of other sectors had put downward pressure on the manufacturing economy.

The outcome of the survey, which gives a spanshot of output. Factory-gate prices is successive quarterly weakness of the March survey would not push the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Kenneth Clarke, into cutting interest rates after town town of the survey, deliberate restraint on Bank of England, Eddie

Despite the cuts in production, stocks rose in 20 per cent of companies, Separate data from the Bank of England showed continued if slightly slower growth of notes and coins in

> Although the Chancellor and the Governor were expected to take note of the PMI, the consensus view among City analysts was that there would be no base rate reduction before May.

the system during March, providing new evidence that

high-street spending was

Dial SBC-Pacific for merger

Mark Trace in New York

(£11 \$16.7 billion billion) merger agree-ment between SBC Communications and Pacific Telesis was announced yesterday — the first combina-tion of regional telephone companies since Congress deregulated America's telecom-

munications industry last The alliance will create the United States' second largest telecommunications company after AT&T, the long-distance company, and will hasten the Advisers to the two UK tele-consolidation of the world's com groups are still seeking

The move came the same treat their respective German | compete with each other. day as lan Lang, the UK alliances. Vehacom, C&W's | Telephone companies, broad-Trade and Industry Secretary, warned that the expected £35 billion merger between British Telecom and Cable & Wireless would have to be cleared by a number of com network to compete with authorities, including the Deutsche Telekom. BT's alli-Office of Pair Trading and the | ances with Viag and RWE are European Commission.

spokeswoman said it was not unusual for companies to have informal discussions with officials who would advise about what was required.
Advisers to the two UK teletelecoms industry into a to clear obstacles to the islation that allowed all sec. of \$9 billion (£5.8 billion) and

joint venture with the con-glomerate Veba, is near to completing a deal with another German group, Mannesmann, to build a national telecom network to compete with more efficient long-distance

ready agreed in principle to the deal. But a department spokeswoman said to the deal and a department and a dep ernment-ordered breakup of price. Pacific Telesis and SBC the original AT&T, or Ma Bell, in 1984.

Wall Street has been waiting for such a merger ever handful of powerful players. | merger. including how to liors of telecommunications to | meome of almost \$3 billion.

casters and cable operators are now free to enter each others' markets. The Baby Bells can expect a furious assault from their

MCI (BT's US partner). Two other regional tele-phone companies, Bell Atlantic and Nynex on the East coast, have discussed a merger but disagreed on

serve the two largest states, California and Texas. The merged company will have more than 100,000 emsince Congress approved lect ployees, operating cash flow

Eight Standard directors share £13m paper profit

Printek Donosan

Directors at Standard Chartered are sitting on share option packages with a "paper profit" of more than £13.6 million, according to figures disclosed in the bank's annual report. Most of the increase is

The value of their rolling understood to have come

incentive scheme was from additional payments boosted by the award of ad-ditional options worth nearly £2 million over the the normal expatriate past 12 months — a period retirement age of 55.

which has seen Standard's Overall pay and co which has seen Standard's Overall pay and cash bo-share price soar on takeover speculation.

The bank's shares yesterday climbed another 12p to past 12 months. 621p, compared with a Group chief

The directors have accumulated shares worth a fur-ther £2.16 million under a 'restricted share scheme". Directors are barred, 2594.000.

TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS

Australia 1.8850 France 7.43 Austria 15.25 Germany 2.20 Belgium 45.00 Greece 362.00 Hong Kong 11.58 Opprus 0.6850 India 52.05 Ireland 0.9550 Denmark 8 48 Finland 7.01

haly 2,345 Singapore 2,10 Maita 0.54 South Africa 5.86 Netherlands 2,4675 Spein 183,75 New Zsaland 2,18 Sweden 10,07 Norway 9,56 Sweden 10,07 Switzerland 1,78 Norway 9.56 Portugal 227.25

Subplied by NatWest Bank (auticting Indian rupes and Israeli shekel)

BCCI victims win a point against Bank

N unprecedented halfbillion pound lawsuit against the Bank of England can go ahead ngland can go ahead but only if lawyers per-suade a High Court judge of their case at a hearing ex-pected on April 26. Barristers acting for depositors in the Bank of Commerce and Credit International will need to show Bank officers were to blame for the losses.

Yesterday. Mr. Justice Clarke held that the ancient legal injury of "misteasance in public office" could generally be held against the Bank - victory for the depositors. But he provisionally rejected the argument thatthe Bank could be held liable in the

Were it possible to show the depositors' losses were capable of being caused in law by the alleged misfea-sance, then he would reverse this decision. At the April 26

hearing, the depositors will try to persuade him.

BCCI was shut down by worldwide regulatory action, led by the Bank of England, in July 1991. Liquidators found as much as \$20 billion (£13.33 billion) missing mak-ing BCCI the biggest fraud of all time. The writ was brought by liquidators De-

CONOMIC output in

central and eastern

Europe and the former Soviet Union is still lagging

behind pre-1990 levels, ac-

cording to the European Bank for Reconstruction

But this year should see

Poland become the first

country where post-Com-

munist output surpasses that recorded under the for-

mer centrally planned sys-

tem, and Slovenia is ex-

pected to follow suit

and Slovakia are among

those countries where

recovery has brought output within hailing distance

of pre-1990 levels.
Output in several countries has slumped dramatically, however, with

Georgia's economy produc-

ing just 17 per cent of its 1989 level. Azerbaijan,

Tajikistan and the Ukraine

Eastern bloc is

European bank

the 1989 figure.

In its latest transition report, published yester-

day, the EBRD — which was set up to help former Communist countries to

switch to market-based

economies — acknowledges that official figures may

loitte & Touche in May 1993 on behalf of 6,000 UK deposi-tors believed to have lost £566 million. It alleges that the Bank should not have given BCCI its original 1979 licence and that, having done so, it ought to have taken so, it ought to have taken action earlier. It further alleges the Bank ought to have established "consolidated supervision" of BCCI in concert with other regulators. BCCI was not officially based in Britain, but ran key treasure of the supervision of the supe Mr Justice Clarke, at yes-terday's pre-trial hearing, said that, if the case were to go ahead, it had to clear three hurdles: was the Bank liable for misseasance?; were the losses caused in law by the Bank's wrongdoing?; and were all BCCI depositors en-titled to claim?

His judgment was no to the first point, but added: "If my answer to [question two]... were yes, my answer to this question would also be yes." On question two, he gave a provisional no, but said further submission would be heard. He ruled yes to question three, princi

The liquidators are be-lieved to be confident of changing his mind. The Bank of England said it was pleased



Bootleggers take a kicking



However liberal the rest of Europe may be, alcohol and tobacco entering British ports must be for personal use to avoid VAT. And 800 pints of lager does seem a little over the top. In the latest of our series, SARAH RYLE visits Dover docks

AITING on a cold morning for cross-Chanto disembark from one of the four-hourly ferries, the anti-bootlegging team at Dover's Eastern was convinced there would be enough seizures of beer and tobacco to keep the

doors opening, the first three

vans fitting the bootleg pro-

file ("almost all white Tran-

sits, you look for a low axle

too") were pulled over and

The object of the drams

played hourly at Dover and

other British ports is to con-vince the Excise Verification

Officers (EVOs) that the booty

office paperwork stacked paint too bleak a picture. "It is widely recognised that official GDP (gross do-Bootleggers don't mind the cold," said one Customs & Exmestic product) figures for cise official. "There is no offmany countries overstate the output decline that took peak season for them. In fact, they can travel more often place in the early years of now because the ferries are emptier and the trips are systemic transition and understate the subsequent much cheaper. With the deals recovery."
The EBRD is generally on at the moment, you can get across to Calais for £1."

searched.

process. "The last year saw strong economic growth in eastern Europe and the Baltics and a slowdown of the pace of output decline in the Commonwealth of Independent States," It said.

"There is a good chance that the region is now looking forward to a period of sustained growth and moderate inflation."

in the back is for personal use. If the EVOs are not persuaded, they can seize the contents of the vehicle and the vehicle itself. Three men were packed in the front of one wreck, and

there were so many crates of lager in the back that they towered above the front seat. The beer mountain consisted of 110 crates, each containing 12 litres of Tennant's Extra

EU shopping guide

Guidance levels on goods bought in the EU for personal use

400

Strong at 9 per cent volume. Even if the three men, local lads from Romney Marsh, had been able to get their story straight and persuade the officials that they were splitting the 1,320 litres of booze three

The whole lot was seized,

ways, which they falled to do, they were looking to get through nearly 800 pints each.

young, unemployed lad will cross to Calais to do the buying. The donkeys put up in bed-and-breakfasts in Dover, officials said, and fill vans bound for all parts of Britain in the small hours of the morning They come from areas where unemployment is high and

van was taken too, although the customs officers had diffi-

culty driving it to the pound because the key had broken

off in the ignition and the motor had to be started with a

string. Shortly afterwards, an EVO

was summoned to the foot-

passenger terminal by antidrugs colleagues. A young lad who fitted the Customs & Ex-

cise profile for cannabis smugglers had been pulled

over with two large holdalls

containing 13.7kg (30lb) of

hand-rolling tobacco. He had a receipt for £2,000 and the

duty on each kilo was about 287 — if he couldn't pay, the

tobacco would be selzed. He

had been stopped before. Officials said he was typical

of the army of "donkeys" who

operate in gangs for bosses

around the country. For £30 cash in hand and the fare, a

expectations low. acts of fantastic generosity. A couple of thousand pounds' worth of tobacco was for friends, according to one regular traveller from the Northeast. The capital outlay had come from savings. Dover's assistant collector

Bill Keen, said that if the bootleggers were to be be-lieved, Britain's social fabric

ing a 17 per cent increase in

earnings per share before ex

ceptionals, some City com-mentators were focusing on the board's warning of "sub-

dued market conditions" in the developed markets of Europe and North America. Although chairman Law-

rence Urquhart promised

'further satisfactory pro-

gress" in the Castrol lubri-

cants business - with sales of

£1.9 billion, the cornerstone of

the group — and the £810 million chemicals division, the

group faces a battle to im-prove its margins in such ma-

Last year the chemicals div-

ision continued to edge towards the group's target for return on sales of 10 per cent. The 28 per cent rise in profits

to £62.4 million takes the return on sales to 8 per cent. Profits from lubricants also improved, from £122.5 million

in 1991 to £204.3 million last

The company has successfully extricated itself from fuels in the UK, Turkey, Chile

and Sweden for some £180 million. Given the price

war on petrol station fore-courts, that seems smart. But its lubricants business can expect a reinvigorated challenge in the medium term

from the BP/Mobil merger of downstream activities. Ven-

tures in China are notori-ously difficult to control.

And the greatest threat is that customers come to see motor oil as a commodity to

ture busines

Steve Clement of Customs & Excise with seized booty

had never been stronger what with all the presents and surprise parties being given, not to mention the increase in weddings

In three hours at the Eastern Docks there were seven seizures. But greater manpower would have boosted the tally. Even as his fellow officers searched three vans, another could only watch more likely bootleggers roll past. If the UK Parliament had

tobacco across the Channel. There have been no restrictions within the European Union since April 1993.

But Parliament has limited the volume here to personal use. Mr Keen stressed that his staff were not there to enforce limits. They are there to ensure that VAT is paid on everything that the British

should be paid on.
Customs & Excise head-quarters in London was anxious to keep the problem in perspective. In the year to No-vember 1995, bootlegging ac-counted for VAT revenue worth nearly £11 million compared to a total take from bet ting, gaming and the national lottery in the last financial year

£1,200 million. But the most recent annual report from HM Customs & Excise showed that while set receipts from all tobacco products had not declined in 1994/95, those from hand-rolling tobacco and other smok-ing/chewing tobacco had. Tobacco seizures at the

Eastern Docks that day were all of hand-rolling tobacco none of cigarettes The growth of the problem

is such that while the rest of

customs is paring down staff

23,000), the 33 EVOs at Dover are expecting to be joined by another 10 colleagues. A target was set last year of 2,300 seizures from April 1, 1995 to March 31, 1996. That not laid down constraints, it target, the officers say, has al-would be perfectly legal to ready been surpassed.

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THE NET THAT SETS YOU FREE ?

Burmah Castrol finds Asia full of liquid gold

90 litres

Outlook Chris Barrie

URMAH Castrol, renowned for its associa-tion with Dennis Thatcher and speciality oils for cars usually painted in British Racing Green, indicated yesterday that its future lay in Asian markets.

Announcing a 15 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £253 million on turnover of £3.04 billion, chief executive Jonathan Fry said business in the Asia-Pacific region had gone well: "The economies are bursting with growth." Hong Kong companies may be considering the implica-tions of the Chinese taking control in 1997, but Burmah

astrol is going flat out to wir a 10-15 per cent stake of the Chinese lubricants market. Step one was to send a team set up a regional headquar-ters, a move that cost Burmah Castrol a hefty increase in

managerial overheads. As Mr Fry noted, Hong Kong is more expensive than Wiltshire. Step two was to call a managerial meeting in Beijing. Some 150 managers spent week considering group strat-egy at a cost to central overeads of £1.5 million.

Burmah was at one time as

quintessentially English as Rolls-Royce, with which it shared the dubious distinction of being bailed out by the government in the 1970s. The company now has more than 18 per cent of its total sales in Asia, while the UK accounts for 11 per cent. The rest of Europe provides 30 per cent, and the Americas just

over 28 per cent. Mr Fry's enthusiasm for

Asia is partly due to demand | for lubricants: there is nothing like higher volumes for boosting profits, he says. Last year saw the lubricants business turn in a 20 per cent increase in volumes to £460 million, and a 14 per cent rise in profits to £70.9 million. Earnings would have been higher but for the group's hefty in-vestment in the region.

If Mr Fry has his way, sales of lubricants in Asia should overtake Europe's next year. Shares in the group rose 10p to £10.67 as the City digested the better-than-ex-pected results and the bullish forecasts for Asia-Pacific.

Burmah Castrol Stock market value 22.18bm

News in brief

Mitsubishi invests £131m in Apricot

PRODUCTION of Apricot computers at Glenrothes, near Edin burgh, will increase over the next five years, doubling the workforce from 300 to 600, in a £131 million investment by Japanese group Mitsubishi. This will also create a further 100 obs at the company's research and development centre in

Tatsuya Mutoh, general manager of Mitsubishi's informa-tion and communications systems group, which bought Apricot in 1990, said the investment would ensure that the company entered the next century as a market leader in personal com-

The factory at Glenrothes will increase production of com-puters to 500,000 a year as part of plans to raise worldwide output by 400 per cent to an annual 1 million. Apricot is the 12th-biggest seller of computers in the UK, accounting for around 3 per cent of market share. About 60 per cent of the company's sales are in Britain, the majority to business

House prices creep up

HOUSE prices are slowly recovering, according to latest figures from the Halifax. Prices in March increased by 1.2 per cent. The figures show the average UK price at \$53,210, 1.7 percentage points higher than the same month last year. The average price paid by first-time buyers is £43,131, up 0.2 of a point on last year.

The latest increase builds upon last month's figures, which showed the first annual change in more than a year. — Cliff Jones

Peace profits Ulster TV

ULSTER TV's share of the "peace dividend" helped push up advertising revenue and profits in 1995. This year might not be so easy. John McGuckian, the chairman, warned. "Competitive pressures for both viewers and revenue will increase in 1996 with the arrival of cable and the setting up of Channel 5 in the UK for launch in early 1997. But the arrival in Northern Ireland this year of several major British food retailers will act as a stimulus for first her promotional expanditure."

further promotional expenditure."

Advertising revenue in 1995 rose from £29.9 million to £32.8 millica, helping the group increase its profits by 9.5 per cent to 58.2 million. Ulster had the highest viewing share in ITV, at 42 per cent, for the third year in a row. — Tony May

Tesco dovetails with B&Q

be bought simply on price, de spite Burmair's heavy invest TESCO has extended the use of its Clubcard loyalty scheme to doment in marketing and adver-tising aimed at convincing them that it is worth paying it-yourself retailer B&Q. Tesco shoppers will be able to amass Clubcard points on their purchases at B&Q Supercentres (but not Warehouse outlets) as well as their supermarket shopping. The extra for synthetic oils.

It may take more than "liqresulting vouchers and discounts, awarded quarterly, will be cashable only in Tesco stores. uid engineering" to avoid im-pact on the group's financial

A spokeswoman for Tesco said the scheme followed a joint promotion with the travel agent Lunn Poly which gave shoppers Lubcard points on Thomson holiday purchases. — Roger Cowe

Hill hailed by the chief

Alan Henry sees solid foundations laid in Sao Paulo

AMON HILL has won the approval of Renault after his commanding victory in the rainy Brazilian Grand Prix at Interlagos on Sunday confirmed his rounded maturity as a genuine world championship contender in his own right.

It is no secret that the French car manufacturer initially felt more than ambiva-lent about Hill taking over as Williams-Renault's No. 1 two years ago. In Brazil that sea-son the Briton had finished a distant second behind Michael Schumacher's Benet-ton, and Renault was hard pressed, after the death of Ayrton Senna at Imola, to conceal its feeling that Hill was being promoted beyond

his ability. Two weeks later he bounced off the guard rails on the opening lap of the Monaco Grand Prix: possibly the low-est point of his career. But Sunday's win, characterised by restraint, shrewd judg-ment and great tactical skill, confirmed that he has come a

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long way since then.
"I was very impressed with
Damon Hill, who dominated the race from beginning to end with a skilful and wise drive." said the Renault chauman Louis Schweitzer. "He showed today he has the qualities to be a world

Schweitzer was visiting Brazil to lay the foundations of a car factory. Engine supplier to Williams since 1989, Remault is confident that Hill, on maximum points after two races, will deliver the company's third world drivers' championship in five seasons

But Sunday's success was not simply about Hill's new-found confidence and control. It also reflected the effort that has gone i**nto sharpening up** the Williams team's race strategy and pit-stop disci-pline, elements which have pline, elements which have championship, and nobody perhaps lacked the razor edge criticised him for that.

of their main rivals over the past couple of seasons. "I wanted to dominate this weekend if I could, and I think I managed it," said Hill with obvious satisfaction. "I have to thank the team for the part they played because they did a brilliant job.

"My engineer and Adrian Newey, who designed the Wil-liams FW18, worked very well to provide me with the equip-ment which was going to give me the best opportunity to get the most out of the situation. Everything came together

perfectly."

However, as Hill surveys his prospects for the rest of the season — and notably the coming weekend's Argentine Grand Prix, which he won last year — he knows that al-though he holds a heady 14-point lead on his nearest rivals, last year his lead of six points after three races evaporated as Schumacher's Benet ton was developed into a titlewining car.

Moreover, he is aware that Sunday's race showed how much thrusting young talent is currently bubbling up through the grand prix ranks. Forceful performances from Jos Verstappen (Footwork) and Mika Salo (Tyrrell), and from Hill's own team-mate Jacques Villeneuve, served to identify the source of the next generation of Formula One

It must also be food for thought that David Coulth-ard, who was frequently as fast if not faster than Hill at Williams last season, is now struggling to make an impact alongside Mika Hakkinen in the McLaren-Mercedes team.

The message is straightforward. The Williams-Renault is decisively the best car on the circuit, and many F1 observers believe that there are half a dozen drivers who could match Hill's pace if only they were able to climb into its cockpit.

Hill would doubtless say that that is to miss the point. Nigel Mansell enjoyed an even more pronounced per-formance advantage when he surged to the 1992 world



suring up ... Oxford's cox Kristol, 5ft 1in, needed help to stay level with the Cambridge No. 5 Ayer at 6ft 81/lin TOM JENGAS

Cambridge scale new heights

Christopher Dodd

AMBRIDGE are 2-1 on favourites with William Hill for Saturday's Boat Race, with Oxford 6-4. Nobody else was chancing so much as a shirt cuff as the crews weighed in yesterday. Oxford are heavier at an average of 13st 12% lb against Cambridge's 13st 11% lb, a difference too small to be signifi-

ant over 4% miles. At 6ft 81/4 in Ethan Ayer, Cambridge's only overseas carsman, is the tallest man ever to row in the race. At 15st 6lb he is the heaviest this

sises the middle and end of the stroke. But such problems have been behind the Light Blues since Christmas. They spent last week at the National Water Sports Centre in Nottingham sharpening up

Harry Mahon, their finishing coach from New Zealand. flew in yesterday to take over from their chief coach Robin Williams, who has five men from last year's superb reserve crew plus last year's Boat Race stroke Miles Barnett and the 1992 British Olympic parsman Nick Burfitt.

His height, coupled with Cambridge have won the tackle the twisting Putney to the American emphasis on Beefeater Trophy three years Mortlake course since the

quickness at the beginning of the stroke, has given him problems fitting into the Cambridge system, which emphabetter than last year, a crew of racers including four Americans, one Blue (the president Rob Clegg), plus the British international Damian West and the former junior

international Adam Frost. Their worth may be tested today by the young Oxford Old Blues, seven of whom are in the Olympic team, including three former presidents: Matthew Pinsent, Jonny Searle and Rupert Obholzer. Oxford's cox Todd Kristol, a Harvard man with four vic

tories over Yale, is possibly the least-sighted steersman to tackle the twisting Putney to

2-10 MONKS \$0HAM (1920)

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Start: Pubrey, April 6, 3.30pm.

3.40 Eriting

Racing

National bets down - bookies still clean up

Chris Hawkins

OUGH QUEST might have been the first favourite to win the Grand National for 14 years. but the bookmakers got away virtually scot-free and Hill's report he was a winner for them both ante-post and on

Backing the favourite in the National is not a popular pastime and the once-a-year punters traditionally look for

Overall betting turnover was down by about 4 per cent, which is in line with the genwhich is in the with the general decline now that the National Lottery has got a grip, but over £50 million was still wagered on the event nationwide.

The Flat season and the Classics now rush upon us and the 2,000 Guineas is less than five weeks away. Al-haarth has held his position throughout the winter and is 5-4 favourite, followed by

Mark of Esteem at 7-1. The latter has wintered in Dubai and looked well for-ward when paraded at Sheikh Mohammed's Al Quoz stables last week. He is not a big colt, but has plenty of quality. He was beaten a neck by Al-

haarth when they both made their debuts at Newmarket last July, so on the book there is little between them, although physically one would imagine Dick Hern's colt has

a decided edge.

Beauchamp King, winner of the Racing Post Trophy, and Royal Applause, the Middle Park winner, come next in the betting at 12-1, followed by

Pommard at 16-1 from 25's. There was a move for Pommard over the weekend after John Gosden's colt reportedly did a nice bit of work, but on the evidence of one racecourse performance when he won an ordinary maiden at Sandown in June it is a bit early to enthuse about him.

Interestingly, he is by the same sire, Darshaan, as Mark of Esteem. The latter is not in the Derby, but can still be entered and is quoted second favourite at 12-1 behind AlSimon Crisford, racing manager to Godolphin, said of Mark of Esteem: "It's ques-tionable whether he will stay a mile and a half and we're hopeful rather than confident."

Mick's Love, now another Godolphin celt, wen both his races as a two-year-old when trained by Mark Johnston and is rated 25-1 for the Derby. He is big, lengthy sort by Law Society out of a Luth-ier mare and has good prospects of staying middle-

Sheikh Mohammed bought him last autumn and commented last week: "Some-times I like him, but then he goes up and down. He pleases me then he doesn't."

What one makes of that I am not sure, but Mick's Love looks in prime condition and is sure to win good races this season even if they are not

top class. The 1,000 Guineas, which will again be run on a Sun-day, is dominated by the two Newmarket fillies Bosra Sham, the 5-2 favourite, and

Blue Duster at 7-2. Bosra Sham, ridden by Tony McGlone, apparently went well in some weekend work and there still seems to be plenty of confidence be-

hind Henry Cecil's filly. Cecil described her as "something else" last season when he had a number of good fillies and the way she won the Ascot Fillies Mile from Bint Shadayid suggests she need only make normal progress to be a formidable

opponent this season. Bint Shadavid is owned by Hamdan Al-Maktoum, who has not been an active supporter of the Godolphin policy until now. But this filly was sent to Dubai for the winter and looks to have improved. She is 7-1 from 8-1 for the

Hill's introduced the French filly A Votre Sante into their Guineas betting at 16-I following her cantering six-lengths success at Saint Cloud on Friday. A Votre Sante is trained by Criquette Head, who has won the 1,000 with Hatoof, Ravinella and Ma Biche.

Nottingham runners and riders with form

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608	DS0000	BAST BAROES (5) (C) (D) 5 Goldreys 8-6-6	
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Axminster Selling Hurdle.



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TOP ROSELTIPE: Passers Jive 8, Ye Kiri-8 7 1990s Marchine Penetra Jere 8, Ye Kiri-8 7 1990s Marchine 6 9 7 K Darfey 4-1 (E Alston) 7 res Bettings 2-1 Panarra Jivo. 11-4 Subble Wings. 4-1 Washlu Beeck, 7-1 Yo Kiri-B. 10-1 Krinestash, 13-1 Lasi Roundey, 14-1 Yuppy Girl. 3.20 FREEDOM FORCE HANDICAP 3YO (Eles 71 CR, 180 2-5003 VICTUR OF LOVE (17) (00) R Charliso 9-7 -2-5003 VICTUR OF LOVE (17) (00) R Charliso 9-7 -2-3 FALRY HIGH ANDS (16) S Williams 9-3 55411 INSS OFFSST (17) (00) M Johnston 9-0 213413 ROWLANDSONG CHARRE (10) G L Moore 9-0 000- DATEY (151) Mrs J Rausden 8-12

B removers TOP PCRE TEPS: Pairy Highlands S, Miles Officet 7, Victim, Of Love 6 1895: Dembelon's Dresms 3 9 0 A, Daly 12-1 (8 Separt) 6 ras Beathags 11-4 Ferry Highlands, 3-1 Miles Officet, 4-1 Victum Of Love, 5-1 Rowlandsons Charm, 8-1 Effective Milron Street, 12-1 Carry.

3.50 THORPE YERMON RANDICAP 1m 4f E2,500 | Constant | Constant

7 rumpers TOP PORSE TIPS: Greenspas 6, Secret Service 7 1882: Shabiyr 4 9 21 W Ryso 3-1 (R Naillachead) 9 rise Betting: 2-1 Secret Service, 7-2 Greenspan, 5-1 Chevaler, Bachview, 6-1 Hill Parm Dancer, 10-1 in The Money, 14-1 Rosing Hows. 4.20 CAKLEY-JONES SELLING STAKES 270 SF C2,553

4.50 SHERWOOD STARLESS HANDICAP OF CAUSE

TOP PORM TIPS: Point 8, Disco Boy 7 reficial 4.9.3 K Duries 4-1 (J Cleans) 12 co Bettings 8-4 Foiss, 4-1 Arc Lamp. 6-1 Skr Tasker, 7-1 Stamphai Lil. 8-1 Disco Boy, Blue Lugana, 14-1 Normadic Danser.

 David Bridgwater, second in Saturday's Grand National and still needing one more success for his first century of winners, was banned for five days at Exeter yesterday for Blinkered today for the first time: FOLKESTONE: 240 Simply: 4.10 Sorblere NOTTINGHAM: 3.30 Longhill Boy. excessive use of the whip on Habasha, runner-up in the

PCSINES

Comparison for the property of the pr

Ticket profiteers punished by FA

Don Boot

tion has imposed its most severe penalties so far on players, offiso far on players, officials and supporters whose Cup final tickets last year were sold for up to 35 times their true value. The list published yesterday contains 36 names of individuals and

groups banned from receiving tickets for up to 20 years. Of the tickets issued to the finalists, Manchester United's allocation saw profiteering by 11 of those punished, compared with Everton's five. One £17 ticket was sold for what is believed to be a record 2640, while a £30 seat fetched £450.

The 1995 final was the first at which new laws were used to combat touts. Fines of up to £5,000 were suggested but the Home Office has yet to publish prosecution and convic-

Demand for tickets for this year's final between United and Liverpool will be intense but the FA said: "We are sure the police and government will continue to help us fight this scourge in sport. For the FA's part, by imposing tough penalties we are seeking to do everything we can. We are

Manchester City, preparing for Saturday's Maine Road derby against United, have been told that the full-back June 18, three days after been told that the full-back Scott Hiley will miss the rest of the season after breaking a bone in his foot. Hiley, a £250,000 buy from Birming-ham, limped off in the last minute of the 1-1 draw with Bolton at Burnden Park on Saturday.

Saturday. City, desperate for points in City, desperate for points in their attempt to avoid relegation, already knew they would be without the suspended Northern Ireland midfielder Steve Lomas.

The FA believes that Villa Park will be in perfect condition for the start of Rupo 36

tion for the start of Euro '96. despite its poor state on Sun-day for the FA Cup semi-final between United and Chelsea. It was criticised by the two managers, Alex Ferguson and Glenn Hoddle.

Scotland play two of their three European Champion-ship matches at Villa Park, opening their Group A fix-tures on June 10 against Holland, and Villa feel they have plenty of time to prepare a perfect playing surface. Villa's last home league game is on April 27, leaving six weeks to prepare. Villa Park will host three

everything we can. We are still investigating several other cases."

group matches and one quar-ter-final and the stadium will be used twice in three days,

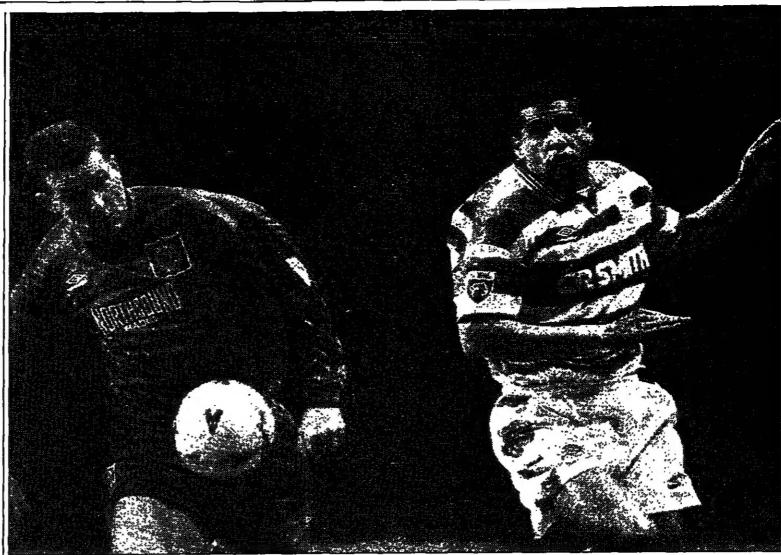
Wilkinson blast for Brolin

zerland. Scotland return on June 18, three days after meeting England, to play their final group match. Middlesbrough are to auc

tion fixtures and fittings from their former Ayresome Park ground, including generators, boilers, kitchen equipment washing machines, stand seats and pieces of turf. The auction will be held at the

ground on April 23.

FA BLACK LIST: D Pescos (ticket to Cormed) FA), one at \$40, and price \$250. 10-year bon; R Serri (Cormed) FA), \$40, \$250, \$10ym; TG



Dancing attention . . . Van Hooydonk goes through the motions alongside Grant, of Aberdeen, at Parkhead last night

Scottish Premier Division: Celtic 5, Aberdeen 0

Rampaging Celtic take no prisoners

ian Ress

HE gulf between the Leeds manager Howard Wilkinson and his club's costliest acquisition, Tomas Brolin, appeared to widen yesterday

Nine days after the Swede ennounced that he would almost certainly seek a transfer at the end of the season, the man who lured him to English football only four months ago spoke bluntly about the player's

"It would be more pro- summer departure for a ductive for everyone if he player earning around was to stop talking about leaving," said Wilkinson. "I have told him he should be concentrating on the present rather than the nelling his efforts into get-ting into the first team and

player earning around £15,000 a week at Elland Road. He is already being linked with a return to the Italian club. Leeds's other costly for-

eign import, Tony Yeoboah, will learn today the extent of an injury which has angered Wilkinson. The then producing his best form."

Although Leeds invested
£4.5 million in Brolin in
November when he joined
from Parma, he has a
knee problem which could release clause in his con-tract. That may trigger a out for up to three weeks.

Patrick Glenn ORGE CADETE, with the sweetest of chips, scored his first goal for Celtic three minutes after

hilarating performance by the Parkhead club. Two minutes previously Van Hooy-donk had headed his own second and Celtic's fourth.

Those Celtic supporters yearning for a positive start to what was expected to be a demanding match could

fying response. They scored twice in the first 18 minutes. Aberdeen, having lost the three previous league meet-ings this season, were looking at a whitewash after only two

minutes, when Donnelly scored the first. He was involved in a smart move down the right before the ball was played across the penalty area. Gray wheeled to feed the marauding McKinlay on the left and the full-back took one left and the full-back took one touch before delivering an im-Donnelly, who beat Watt's left

ity, their ability to interchange at will, was the main problem for Aberdeen. The raids were quick and varied. aithough the move which without complication. McKinlay took possession on the left in defence, spotted Van Hooy-donk free up ahead and sim-ply lofted the ball forward. The big Dutchman beat the advancing Watt to the ball and lobbed him from the edge

If Aberdeen at times ap-peared to be less than fully

Celtic's collective versatil | committed — perhaps a hint ty, their ability to inter of saving themselves for Saturday's Scottish Cup semi-final with Hearts — Celtic were unrelenting in their puring around the visitors' terri-

tory, they scored their third after 67 minutes. Again McKinlay was involved, setting off down the left and dragging the ball past two defenders before laying it off to Boyd. He knocked it inside to Donnelly, who bulleted a chot in from 10 words. a shot in from 10 yards. Celtier Mershail; Boyd, McKiniay. McNamara, Hughes, Grant, Donnelly.

• Uefa yesterday turned

against a five-game suspension on Reynald Pedros. The European Cup hopes as he against Juventus and the final if they get there. Uefa also announced that the ap-peal board had reduced the the three-match suspension on Barcelona's Miguel Angel Nadal to a single match.

Square ball to Square Mile — the way of reckoning Ruddock fear for final place

John Duncan and **Paul Murphy** examine the flotation issue and find four more clubs who may follow Chelsea to the market

revolution in football yesterday. As Chelsea started trading nine public flotation to follow. other leading clubs were hit-ting their calculators and asking whether the cash that flotation can generate — in some cases up to £100 million - is available to them.

Two major clubs have floated previously to great success: Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur. capitalisation of £178 million.

up 60 per cent in 12 months.

The opportunity, though,
may not be available to all. "It's fair comment that flota-

mier League club yesterday. "It could mean that a few of the larger clubs, maybe five or six, could realistically gain access to the sort of money it is now possible to raise in this manner.'

The four clubs who are said to be monitoring the situation most closely are Everton, Arsenal, Newcastle United, and Liverpool.

we have been able to fund the club without having to go to the market place," said Peter Robinson. Liverpool's chief executive. "We have had two rights issues which have been

HERE was a silent | tion could create an elite | subscribed mainly through | on the market the City would within an elite," said a senior the chairman and they have executive of one major Pregiven us £10 million, the

> "It has been considered but great, may not in future be

money we have needed thing working-class. Manmainly to develop the ground. It's a matter that is always under review but we have no have seen the big money flowplans at the present time." ing from the merchandising
The problem is that there is side. names such as Umbro only so much money available in the City for football clubs and Liverpool cannot afford to allow rivals to take it all. The personal wealth of in-dividual proprietors, however

enough to compete.
What is making all this possible is the amount of money coming into the game since the Premier League

send its shares to the moon. Yet football is seen as somechester United, however, has set a new benchmark. We and Hewlett Packard. It's big

money now." There are problems, however, with existing directors unwilling to loosen control, the inevitable riskiness of any sport and the problem of valuing a business whose main assets are players. In addition, as Mark Wheeler, a sector analyst at the stockbrokers Dunbar Boyle and started, and the changing Kingsley, who specialise in

involved asking them for their report and accounts — public documents — we almost gave up on the likes of Everton and Manchester City. "It is a common reaction—

any request for information by outsiders is seen as an in-trusion — and that is not of clubs because we have a 12quite how the City works." get in on the act, though.
"You have to wait for the best

moment to float," said Colin Barlow, managing director of Manchester City. "We have done a lot of work in the past two years and we expect to move ahead in the next two. West Bromwich Albion week woter to become a Flotation is not inevitable but it is in our thoughts." Chelsea's share issue this | would allow the club to raise

named shareholder who wanted to sell, and all the money raised will go to him flotation in three years," said Alan Shaw, group company secretary of Chelsea Village.

acre site and potentially a va-Plenty of clubs are keen to get in on the act, though.
You have to wait for the best moment to float," said Colin Barlow, managing director of Barlow, managing director of Barlow. There is mileage in flota-tion for smaller clubs, too;

West Bromwich Albion this week voted to become a pub-lic limited company, which

our issue to the tune of £2.5 million, so we are guaranteed to raise that," said a club director, Barry Hurst. "We've got a good stadium and good supporters but we haven't got a Jack Walker financing us. "If we can raise about £4 million it will be very helpful

spent on building the team. We aren't really offering our

60p yesterday, a 10 per cent get back in increase. "Fans wanting a Gareth vale's promount," said dealers. "Good but not dramatic." That may tre-back, I change soon enough.

pes rise o

against Nottingham Forest 10 days ago took him through the 33 disciplinary points barrier. He will miss the league games at Coventry on Saturday and at home and a lot of that money will be to West Ham on Easter

shares as a good investment do at this club is drop out of to people. It's an investment the first team through injury of the heart rather than the or suspension," said Ruddo at this club is drop out of dock. "If you do drop out Chelsea's shares rose 5p to there's no guarantee you will

Sport in brief

Baseball The Major Leagues' earliest

start to a season this century yesterday in Cleveland, where the Indians' game against the New York Yan-kees was snowed off.

Burnley

Hudd. Town

Patty Sheehan was down in two from 120ft for par at the Rancho Mirage 18th on Sunday, giving the 39-year-old American her sixth LPGA major but her first Dinah Shore title. Her closing 71 for a seven-under-par total of 281

han. Britain's Laura Davies faded with a 75 to finish in the

Wales's former WBO European flyweight champion Robbie Regan will step up in weight to challenge Daniel Ji-menez of Puerto Rico for the WBO bantamweight title in VBO battanweight the unit of the light of the light heavyweight title

Hockey

The Great Britain women's Olympic training squad has been cut to the final 20, with Tina Cullen, Kath Johnson earned her £90,000.

Anika Sorentam of Sweden was best European, finishing in the three-way tie for second, one shot behind Shee-

14

12

Golf

VSB QRANDWASTERS (Amutordam); Round & J Péan (Neth) Q, Y Sejrawan (US) : J Tanman (Neth) Q, N Shori (Eng) : J V Kramps (Rus) Q, V Asund (Ing) 1: J Lautier (Fr) E. G Kesparov (Rus) E B Gel-land (Ber) Q, V Topalov (Bul) I Levelarus Kasparov, Topalov SE, Anand. Shori «E.

ice Hockey

Prague v Bordeauz (7.13): Bayers litunich v Barcalona.

sahnat stakk Lifactulla Pirot Divisione: Barneloy v Norwich (7.45); Birnalingham v Portamonin (7.45). Charition v Leisceter (7.45): Crystal Pataco v Port Vale (7.45). Hoddenstield v Reading (7.45); Issaech v Derby (7.45). Oktham v Brimaby (7.45): Shall lite v Southout (7.45). Transmer v MiRwalt; Waiford v Bunderland (7.45): West Brom v Litica (7.45). Second Ottebria. Reading Resident (7.45). Second Ottebria. Reading Resident (7.45). Chiesterfield v Bischool, Hull v Brisch (7.45). Chiesterfield v Bischool; Hull v Brisch (Div. Court) Unit v Wrasham (7.45); Rotherham v Notts County, Swarssen v Paterborough, Walscall v Wycomba (7.45); York v Shrawschury. Telird Divisions Ball net v Carqui (7.45);

witch v Galasshaed (7.45); Tellord v Hedneshord (7.45); local Licabillia Premier Divisiona Bish-op's Storthord v Hitchin; Grays v Carshal-lon; Sr Albars v Boreltam Wood, Yeading v Hendox, Yeon's v Purified (7.45), Firsts Bishlog v Chesham Utd; Heybridge Swrifts v Barton Revs; Majdenhead Life v Un-hidge; Marlow v Aldershot Tn, Etames Tn v Billericky Tn, Wembley v Bigger Regas Tn. Seconds Birschnell Tn v Whvenhote Tn; Canyer to v Met Poblace; Challont SI Peter v

SCOTTISH PRIST

NEIL RUDDOCK's place in the Liverpool side to meet

Square Mile. "In stock market terms it is under-tated," said one top fund manager yesterday. "If Harlequins was profile of the top clubs, which image of football in the liverpool side to meet much about raising vast shareholders.

Week, however, was not so money beyond existing shareholders.

"What influenced us was the fact that we have found yesterday belonged to an unsomeone who will underwrite fun Ross." The England defender has been suspended for two

Monday.
"The worst thing you can

Gareth Griffiths, Port Vale's promising young cen-tre-back, has signed a new two-year deal.

dlamb

Teamtalk

The Independent News and Reports Service

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Bowilli 80

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE Collie (2) 5 Donnelly 2, 67

Cadele 75

UNINOND LEAGUE: Pressler Divisions Wirsked Uid 0. Choriey 2.

SEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Pressler Divisions Wirsked Uid 0. Choriey 2.

SEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Press pressler 1. PONTIMS LEAGUE: First Divisions New-castle 4. Shell Wad 2. Notes Co 1, Loeds 2. Wolverhampton 1. Notes Forest 2. Section Side 1. Shell 1. Shell 1. Coverty 3. Mars City 2. Asson Villa 2. Port Vale 1. Hull 0. AVON 1815-URANCE COMBERATIONS First Divisions Stighton 1. Milleuti 1: Crystal Palace 2. Lubri 0. SHE COUNTIES LEAGUE: Second Divisions Bristol Nova 1. Bisnet 0. SPENIA CREATIN FRISH CAPITAL LEAGUE: Welling 0. Fulham 4. Peebpoweds Sutton Uid v Peterborough.

Basketball

Baskethall

MUNICIPAL SERI LEAGUE Chester 71, London 126; Birmingham 94, Hermel 81; Leogards 109, Newcastle 79; Doncaster 90, Letoscher 62

108.46 Certainte 90, New York 78; Atlants 10, Bonton 92; LA Lakers 111, Toronto 106; Inchana 118, New Jercey 100, LA Clippois 110, Minnesota 107; Charlotto 121, Vancouver 86; San Arisota 97; Provist 62; Portland 115, Dallas 100; Sacramento 106. Cleveland 100 (oi) Landing etamelarge: Eastern Courter 86; San Arisota 107; Sacramento 108. Cleveland 100 (oi) Landing etamelarge: Eastern Courterence Atlantic Divisions 1, Toliando (WSS. LIS, Pet. 746, GBO); 2, New York (41–28-594–11); 2, Mitami (57–34-52-19), Central Divisions 1, Colicago (82-8-889-0); 2, Indiante 443–28-800-190); 3, Cleveland (41-80-577–210, Western Courterence Minimust Divisions 1, TSan Antonio (82-16-763-0); 2, Utah (50-21-704-20k; 3, Houston (42-28-892-108), Pecific Divisions 1, TSan Antonio (82-16-763-0); 1, TSan Antonio (82-16-763-0); 1, TSan Antonio (82-16-763-0); 2, Indiante 49-28-892-1090, Pecific Divisions 1, TSan Antonio (82-16-763-0); 1, TSan Antonio (82-16-763-0); 1, TSan Antonio (82-16-763-0); 1, TSan Antonio (82-16-763-0); 2, Indiante 49-28-892-1090, Pecific Divisions 11, TSan Antonio (82-16-763-0); 1, TSan An

Cricket SHIFFIGLD SHIFLD (Addelda): Taird days Western Australia 520-8 tiec (A Gilctrist 1884o, R Baber 83, 7 Moody 88, 8 Hogg 81), South Australia 530-7 (P Nobes 123, J Brayshaw 70no).

Motor Racing

STICORET

SCHOOKET AND HEDDES FRESH MASTHES (Cidaret: Revel 5 Davie (Engl lest
to 0 Bargeon (Wal) 5-8.

HETTERN GETSI (Physicoliti): First remark

HETTERN GETSI (Physicoliti): First remark

Whitestern (Engl bt 3 Pattman (Engl 5-2: 6

James (Engl bt 3) Pattman (Engl 5-2: 6

James (Engl bt 3) Pattman (Engl 5-2: 6

James (Engl bt 3) Pattman (Engl 5-2: 6

Daving (Scot) bt W Thoma (Engl 5-3: 6

Daving (Scot) bt W Thoma (Engl 5-4: A

Bellimmer (Scot) bt S Meakin (Engl 5-3.

Fixtures

Pools forecast

المبكنا من الاجل

Welshmen lured by English clubs

Robert Armstrong

WO leading players from Wales are the target of English clubs. Bath have offered a contract to Garin Jenkins. Swansea's international hooker, while the Cardiff and former Wales fly-half Adrian Davies will decide tomorrow whether to accept a six-figure offer from Richmond.

Moreover, with Cardiff's attempts to sign Pontypridd's Wales Under 19 fly-half Lee Jarvis coming to grief, Harle-quins are now the favourites to land Neil Jenkins's

understudy.
The cross-border transfer approaches appear to justify the Welsh Rugby Union's in-sistence that the 180-day rule must remain in place to keep the riches English electric the richer English clubs from

bers of the senior Wales speeded up its game, concen-squad. Twickenham wants to abandon the rule, which ap-than mauling. plies to players who switch to clubs in another country and prevents them from playing until after the waiting period. The WRU will discuss the

rule on Thursday. The issue came to a head last month when Harlequins announced they had signed the Neath and Wales lock Gareth In another development that

will interest English' clubs Jonathan Davies, who was recruited by Cardiff from War-rington last November in a blaze of publicity, yesterday declared himself unbappy with the club's style of play and said he would consider his future unless Cardiff's game became faster and more fluid.

He said he would think about leaving at the end of the season unless the club

Scottish lock banned for record 19 months after cup violence

AVID McKENDRICK, the Biggar lock, yes-terday received a 19-The centre Walter Little month ban, the most severe suspension ever meted out by the Scottish Rugby

He was sent off, along with Ayr's Kenny Nicol, by the international referee Chuck Muir during Big-gar's 14-6 Tennents Cup victory over Ayr in Febru-ary. McKendrick had been involved in an off-the-ball incident earlier in the match, which saw Ayr's captain Jim Lymburn carried off with a serious bead injury which required hospital treatment.

That incident was not witnessed by the referee but the SRU's disciplinary panel ruled that McKen-

Rugby League

HIL CLARKE's neck in-jury is not as serious as first thought and there

is hope that he will play

again, though not this season. The chief executive of his

Australian club, Sydney City

has been suspended for two Super 12 matches by the New Zealand Rugby Foot-ball Union after becoming the first All Black to fail a drugs test.

The banned substance, propoxyphene, which is not considered performanceenhancing, was found in a recent blood sample taken from Little, who said the substance was in a painkill-ing tablet he had taken for a sore tooth. Members of the British

armed forces and the Chinese People's Liberation Army joined for the first time in a rughy side, but to join Leicester but I've decided to stay with Quins, who visiting Kidderminster team in a friendly match in Hong Kong.

Hopes rise on Clarke

former Wigan forward, who cracked his fourth vertebra in

three places when playing against North Queensland in

Townsville at the weekend.

Bernie Gurr added: "There is no neurological damage and no permanent damage of

"I do not think there is much of a future for me at Cardiff if we continue to play a mauling game. I want to give it everything I have next season. I hope it is with Car-diff, but we have to speed our game up," said Davies, who cost the club 270,000.

"Welsh rugby has to learn from rugby league because we are in the entertainment age now. It is all about putting backsides on seats, and the two most successful clubs in Wales this season. Neath and Wales this season, Neath and Pontypridd, both play a fast, rucking game and regard the flanker as a significant one."

Davies has played only two competitive matches for Car-diff at fly-half. His other ap-pearances have been at full-back and centre but he wants to concentrate on his favoured position. The 28-year-old Garin Jen-

kins yesterday admitted he was thinking seriously of joining an English club after six seasons with Swansea. The former coal-miner also received an offer last month from Leeds, the League Four club whose director of rugby is Phil Davies, Jenkins's for-mer international team-mate. "I have received ap-

proaches before but the chances of a move this time are stronger than ever," said Jenkina. "Swansea are a great club and I have enjoyed nyself immensely but mayb

it is time for a fresh challenge."
Will Carling, the former England captain, will almost certainly see out his playing career with Harlequins, his club since 1987, after turning down an offer from Leicester. 'It was flattering to be asked

Attendances at the Euro-

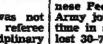
pean Super League's first six

fixtures were the best season-opening crowds since two-div-

ision football returned in

1973. Total attendance was

54,054, an average of 9,009. The story was less encour





Lean and hungry . . . Rousseau preparing on site for the London Marathon with a trot around St Katherine's Dock

HOGHQJ

Hot-time chaser loves cool London

Duncan Mackay finds the marathon man in his contract with the Londress Rousseau is considered pleting his duties at 15 miles and Marathon; he will run slightly strange. Formerly a but carried on and finished in Vincent Rousseau checking temperatures

عبكذا من الاعل

VER lunch yester that last year he walked away day, Vincent Rous from a guaranteed appear-seau of Belgium ance fee of \$100,000 (£56,000). indulged in the As the Rotterdam Marathon Rnelishman's favourite topic of conversation: the weather. This was not simply polite chitchet but the beginning of his meticulous preparation

He was seeking information about the conditions; juggling Celsius and Fahrenheit, desperately hoping that an in-crease in temperature would not decrease his chances of winning on April 21. "I chose he said with a little laugh nervously not tempting fate. Rousseau is the fastest en trant: he was ranked second in the world last year with a personal best of 3hr 7min 20sec and is the only man in history to have broken 2hr amin twice. But he melts like ice-cream in the heat.

The 33-year-old is so scared of running in hot weather

He also has a special con-tract with the Belgian federa-tion. If the temperature exceeds 18C (64.5F) he does not have to represent Belgium in international competition. He has already told the federa-tion that he will not compete at this year's Olympic Games

because Atlanta is likely to be too hot and humid. There is no weather clause

was about to start, the tem-

perature rose to an uncom-

fortable 70F and Rousseau simply stepped off the start line, to everyone's astonish-

ment. If he had taken only a few steps he would have received his money in full:

"I know I can't run well in

hot weather, so why even try?" he explained to repor-

regardless of the temperature He is confident that, given a cool day, he can roll back the stern Mexican challenge of Dionicio Ceron, the winner in 1994 and 1995, and German Silva, together with the British trio of Paul Evans, Ramonn Martin and Gary Staines, who between them will ensure that the 16th running of the race is the most

competitive yet.
"He's well aware of the likely conditions and I suspect that, even last year, which was the warmest we've ever had, he would have run well," said David Bedford, the

ters afterwards. Yesterday he admitted: "I think it's physiological. A lot of people say it is in the head. I'm sure it's elite race director.
Dr David Martin, an exerthe largest percentage of run-ners tend to perform closest to their best in temperatures between 50 and 55F, precisely the kind of weather the London event has traditionally enjoyed. "I hope it's like today, nice and cool." said au, glancing out of the

corporal in the Belgian army for 10 years, he never fired a gun nor had to wear a uniform, but returned to Civvy Street after being sent to run for them in Nigeria and contracting malaria. He now lives alone in Masnuy-Saint Gean, a Belgian vil-

sing, I've got no rhythm, but I window as a runner dressed in thermal tights went past.

lage of 200 people, and trains at altitude at a French Olympic training centre in the Pyrences. He spends his time running, tending his garden and taking long, unaccompanied hikes through the mountains where he is at ease with his nature photography and his solitude. He also avoids chocolate because, even though he runs 120 miles a

can run," he says.
Rousseau, who brings the quality of a 3min 54sec miler to the marathon distance, had not completed a 26.2 mile race until 1993 when he was asked by the Rotterdam Marathon organisers to act as pace-maker for Ceron. He was sup-Even among marathon run- posed to drop out after com-

fifth place in 2hr 13min 9sec. Five months later he won

the Reims Marathon in 2hr 9min 13sec; he was second in Tokyo in February 1994 in 2hr omin esec; and two months later he ran a blistering 2hr 7min 51sec in Rotterdam, Last September he ran the eighth fastest marathon when he finished second in Berlin in 2hr 7min 20sec, making him a serious candidate to break Belavneh Densimo's eight-year old world record of 2hr 6min

pectation in London for the

eccentric marathon runner. Eamonn Martin has weight. 'I can't dance, I can't | thon to a 7am start in Atlanta by confirming he will now press for a Games place. The 37-year-old Basildon runner was doubtful about competing when the event was originally scheduled for the heat and humidity of the early evening. Peter Whitehead and Richard Nerurkar have been preselected for two of the three British places.

Roosters, said they had received "the best possible news from the doctors" on the

Cricket

Paul Fitzpatrick

Wagar glad to see the back of Lamb

Pakistan pace bowler, yesterday applauded the reluctant retirement of Allan Lamb, the former England hatsman whose accusations of ball-tampering by the Pakistanis soured relations between the sides. Lamb's retirement was an-

nounced on Sunday after he refused to bow to Test and County Cricket Board censorship of his autobiography, due to be published this summer and sure to contain inflammatory remarks about the 1982 Test series which

Pakistan won 2-1. Waqar and Wasim Akram were the main targets of Lamb's accusations after the five-match series in which Waqar took 22 wickets and Wasim 21.

"I am glad that Lamb is out so that we can play cricket with more peace, said Wagar in Singapore, where he is playing in the Singer Cup. He always wants to create controversy."

Lamb's accusations arose

over the reverse-swing action of the Pakistan pair, who appeared to be vindicated when other bowlers adopted the technique and lan Chappell and Richie Benaud said Lamb owed Wagar and Wasim an

Pakistan's manager Inti-khab Alam said he regretted lamb's accusation and the timing of his autobiography, which will hit the bookstands when Pakistan tour England for a three-Test series this year. "If he is doing these things to sell the book it is very unfortunate," Intikhab

"He wants to recreate the controversy so that he can sell his book," added Wagar, who had always respected Lamb's aggression on the field. "But all that has

At the height of the controversy in 1992, Geoff Boycott said with Yorkshire bluntness that Pakistan could have bowled out England with an

Snooker

Morgan has no time to celebrate

Clive Everton

DARREN MORGAN'S ela-tion at winning his first major title, the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters just after midnight on Sunday, was tempered by having to

wake up before seven o'clock the next morning. He had to catch an earlymorning flight on a six-seat plane from Dublin to Exeter to begin his chal-lenge for the British Open at Plymouth Pavilions yesterday afternoon, and he was relieved to earn a hardfought 5-3 victory over Stefan Mazrocis, the world

No. 72 from Leicester. The 29-year-old Welsh-man's 9-8 victory over Steve Davis for the 270,000 first prize in County Kildare followed three other arduous wins, 6-4 over Alan McManus and 6-5 over both Peter Ebdon and Joe Swail But, as an invita-tion event, the Irish Masters brought the world

No. 8 no ranking points.

To keep his top-eight position he could not afford a first-round defeat by Mazrocis, and both he and his manager Ian Doyle were scathing in their criticism of the WPBSA for allowing such a timetable to develop. The WPBSA had spread Plymouth's 32 first-round matches from Saturday evening to Wednesday

start date was changed to two days earlier. "There was no consulta-tion," said Doyle. "Some of my players had other engagements to consider. When I protested, the response was, 'Have they entered or haven't they?'

noon. At three weeks' notice the tournament's

"We have a new BBC contract, a contract with Sky. The viewing figures are fine, our attendances are good now that we've got a sensible ticketing policy. but in some ways things are going backwards."

ice Hockey

any type. We are hopeful that aging in the ARL competi-he can play again, which is a far cry from Sunday." Gurr were watched by a disap-

said the Roosters hoped to pointing average of 6,000.

Guildford opt-out fans the flames

Vic Batchelder

DOUBTS continue to haunt plans for the introduction of the new Superleague next September, with confirmation that the Guildford Flames, one of its founder members will not take part.

The Flames will retain the franchise granted 10 days ago and hope to enter at a later date, claiming the delay will "allow sufficient time to produce a competitive team" However, a factor in their ecision is believed to be a failure to progress plans to in-crease the present 2,200 capacity of the Spectrum Lei-sure Centre, owned by the

local authority.

Despite weekend claims by John Lord, the Superleague chief executive, that the competition will begin on time with "seven teams and we are still talking to four or five others", Frederick Meredith, the British Ice Hockey Associ ation president, revealed that

contingency plans have al-ready been put in place. Meredith said these entail the present British League continuing, but being run by the member clubs, alongside the British National Ice Hockey League, the other new competition planned for next season, to which the Flames

will now apply to join. He added: "The BIHA cannot afford to go on becoming embroiled in ego battles", a reference to costly legal disputes in the past, usually em-anating from clubs or individnals objecting to governingbody decisions. There was also criticism of

the Superleague concept from Mike Blaisdell, the coach of the Nottingham Panthers, the club beaten in Sunday's Brit-ish Championship final and still being wooed by the new league's organisers, who in-clude Sir John Hall, owner of blg decisions are going to have to make some smart what he did not be be be below.

Squash

Del boy matures for the Open

Richard Jago on the one-time wimp in with a chance of beating Jansher again

ton, caved in under the pres-sure and threatened to throw away his talent in an excess of drinking and partying. But the new, mature Del boy has so effectively resur-rected himself as a player that there are high hopes of him becoming the first homebased man to win the British

5 years ago. Those hopes might at first m like chauvinism born of British frustration at posses courts but the lowest success rate of the leading squash-playing nations. After all, who could beat Jansher Khan, who is seeking his fifth successive title at the Leekes-

Open since Barrington almost

EL HARRIS, billed sponsored tournament in while a teenager as the future Jonah Barring Well, Harris just might,

having done so 11 days ago. Once denounced as a wimp by some Australians for balloon-ing to two stone overweight and falling so far in the rank-ings that he needed to qualify for tournaments, Harris amazingly inflicted upon Jansher his first PSA circuit defeat for two years. "I knew it was on from the

start," he said. "I would like to think it was possible again." It is not likely but, by overcoming Jansher in the last tournament — at Hatfield on March 22 — before the Open, Harris may have snatched a rare advantage, for the European circuit has collapsed and the defending champion is short of match

have to overcome doubt and perhaps anger. The Pakistani was furious that the experimental pointper-rally, nine-up scoring was used for so important an



event as the Super Series finals, and immediately after his



war for a week to lick his wounds and ponder the implications. Any unexpectedly difficult

struggles might reignite nega-tive feelings. Both men have potentially hard early matches, but Jansher may cross swords again with Harris at about 9.30pm on Friday. If so, the silently gliding rallier with the reptilian kill will be seeking revenge against an explosive retriever who performs the splits at the front and yet recovers to launch cannonballs from the

The head says that with the longer-format scoring Jansher should be able to move Harris around and wear him down. The heart says that a revitalised Harris can recreate the mood of a fortnight ago and bring hidden emotions into play. That, per-haps, is an area in which Jansher may be vulnerable.

Big-noise Hill turns Power off

ANTHONY HILL, the Australian who has been banned from playing for his country again until mentative match on his return from a four-month suspension at the Leekes British Open in Cardiff, writes Richard Jago.

The world No. 8, who was given dual bans at the world team championships, escaped censure by the referee Dean Clayton and defeat by the equally volatile Cana-dian Jonathan Power even though he became involved in noisy disputes during his 2-15, 15-8, 15-9, 3-15, 15-9 victory. He next meets Jason Nicolie, a member of Eng-land's 1991 world silver medal-winning squad.

Suzanne Horner is within one win of a rematch with the top-seeded Australian Michelle Martin after beating Alison Wray 4-9, 9-0, 9-0, 9-0.

Montgomerie second best but fighting fit

David Davies, in Ponte Vedra, Florida, on the 1992 US Masters. On ples another tournament, a and my ball got wet, unfortunated fortunes in the Players Tournament a poor tee shot at the short the Players Championship played in two tournaments mixed fortunes in the Players Tournament

Agomerie neard the roar, he knew almost, but not exactly, what had happened. He was walking to the 15th tee of the Tournament Players Club in the final round of the Players Championship and, although he was over 500 yards away from the source, the sheer volume of the noise told him that Freddie Couples had eagled the 16th. It also told him that the

American had taken the lead at a crucial stage in the pro-ceedings and that it would be

heightened his frustration. For Couples had taken a twoiron, from some 230 yards out, hit it with just a little too much fade and had seen the ball plummet straight at the lake on the right.

remarkably, bounce hard left over a hummock and roll forward on to the fringe of the green. Instead of having to take a penalty drop he had a 35-foot eagle putt, which he

The ball had landed on the top of a railway sleeper used to shore up the bank, and its eccentric bounce was remithe manner of that eagle, and | niscent of the famous incident | how lucky it was, won Cou- | green in two. "I took it on | not already used up his luck.

a poor tee shot at the short 12th and it had seemed certain to finish in Rae's Creek in front of the green. It had pitched on the bank, had started to roll towards the water and then, against all the laws of gravity, stopped. From there Couples pitched and putted for par and went

on to win his first, and so far only, major championship. Asked yesterday if there was any similarity between the two shots, he thought there was not. "The shot at 16 on Sunday was a good one that went just a little too far right. It was lucky, perhaps, not to go in the water, but the shot at Augusta was real, real,

the Players Championship has one of the strongest fields of the year. He won £420,000, 16 years on the US Tour have soared to \$7.965.931 (£5.250.000). Only Greg Norman and Tom Kite have earned more.

Couples, who after his eagle went on to hole a 30ft downhill birdie putt at the short 17th, finished with an 18under-par total of 270 after a final round of 64. He was four ahead of Montgomerie and Tommy Tolles, who both earned £205.333.

Montgomerie, far from eagling the 16th himself, failed to answer the chal-lenge. He hit a good drive and, he said afterwards, real-Sunday's shot, regardless of ised that he had to go for the

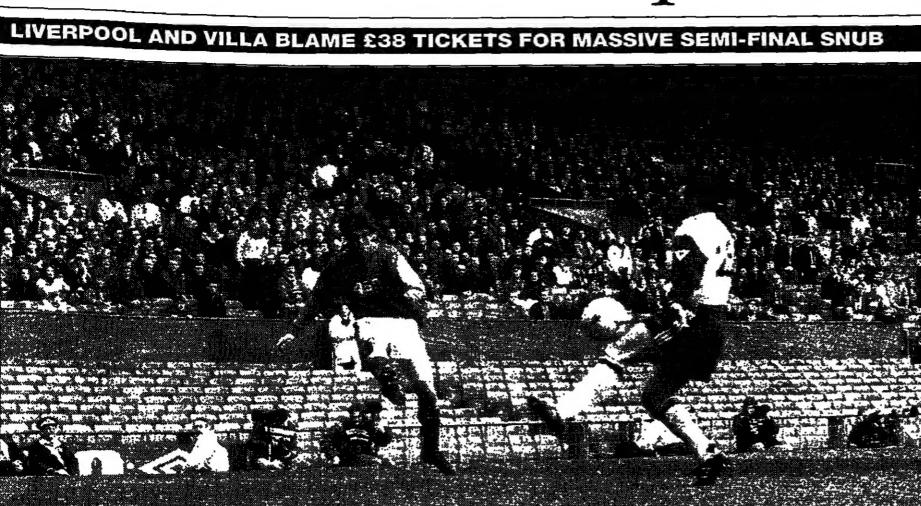
this season, both with strong fields, and finished first in Dubai and now second.

The super slimline Montgo-merie, 33lb already gone and more going weekly, was asked if his results justified his fitness regime and he said they did. "I have always wanted to play this game a little bit fitter than I was before and it's proving its worth already."

For Couples this was his

first win in the United States since 1994 and, given his recent back troubles, an obvious relief. After Sunday he knows that he can compete at the highest level again, and he could be a threat at Au-

bortsGuardian



Case of the missing thousands

Martin Thorpe on a lukewarm response by the FA to the outcry over Cup tickets

ticket pricing after 10,400 fans snubbed the Old Trafford FA Cup semi-final in protest at the

However, the FA is refusing to lower the top semi-final ticket price of £38 which was to lower the top semi-final ticket price of £38 which was reflected in the ticket take-ups. Liverpool, allocated £3500, returned 6,000 tickets unsold, most of them £38—the first time the Anfield club the first time the Anf

"We see nothing wrong FA Cup semi-final, other than with the prices," said the FA's spokesman Steve But we may, however, have to review the structure of the handing at certain venues.

Basically this means Old Trafford only: arrangements at other semi-final venues are expected to go unchanged. This is because so many of Old Trafford's seats are Old Trafford's seats are deemed high quality that 86 planned to write to the FA to per cent of Sunday's semi-complain. "We are saying we still pay, but people can't keep

HE Football Association has ordered a the highest price bands of partial review of 230 and 238. At the less well appointed Villa Park, venue of the other semi-final, it was 67 per cent, leaving a higher percentage of tickets avail-able at £22 and £14.

The unequal distribution a replay. Of Villa's 23,004. 4,400 went unsold, almost all

But Chelsea sold all their allocation of 18,500, and of Manchester United's 19,000 only 700 went unsold, all at £38, the first time United have not sold out a semi-final other than a replay. Liverpool's chief executive

consider the prices excessive. Lots of fans have shown their feelings by not buying tickets. A price of £38 is more than double the average price for a league game at Liverpool. People do expect to pay more at a semi-final, but not that

much."
Villa's secretary Steve

Stride agreed. "The top price is far too much." he said. There should be more tickets at the lower end." By comparison, tickets for the two Scottish Cup semi-finals, both at Hampden Park and one involving Rangers and Celtic, are priced at only

The FA's answer of a partial review of prices has not satisfied the Football Supporters' Association. "It is not addressing the problem," said its chairman Tim Crabbe. The fact is, £38 is clearly too much. Not many people can afford it and just because there are some wealthy supporters who can does not

make it fair.

forking out. Sunday showed that point has been reached." In January the PSA pre-sented a document, entitled The Price Ain't Right, to the FA. Premier League and Foot-ball League and it will be dis-

cussed by all four at a meeting at the end of this month.
It accuses the authorities of double standards, in implementing the Taylor report by building all-seat stadiums but ignoring another finding that "it should be possible to plan a price structure which suits the cheapest seats to those presently paying to stand". Admission prices are also a

ct of code land games, Last Wednes-day's friendly with Bulgaria attracted a crowd of 29,708. Many people have asked why, when the FA knew the game was not very attractive, it did egy to increase the atten-dance — and thereby the atmosphere — by reducing prices and letting children in free or at cut-price.

There are two more Eng-land friendlies at Wembley to come before the European Championship, but Double said: "There are no immediate plans to change things at the moment. We would hope the crowds pick up for the World Cup qualifying games after Euro '96."

One club at the forefront of | that game and thought it's not innovative pricing and incentives to attract fans is Charlton, whose average gate has risen to more than 10,000 since they began their strat-egy last season. Their secre-

Brazil or Scotland, so we will dramatically reduce the prices and encourage the children to come. Then a parent has to come. · Each club in this season's FA Cup final will recieve

understand the FA's attitude. 25,500 ticke "They should have looked at as last year. 25.500 tickets, the same split

Ticket to see Cats, Oliver - £10-£30. No concessions for children.

Lenny Kravitz at Wembley - £16; Donna Summer at Albert Hall £17.50- £25.

is the price right?

(Birmingham Symphony Hall) Simon Pattle and the CBO: £9.50-£30. No concessions.

Day ticket £17.50 (children 4-13 £18.50).

Test routed at Lowest £15-£37 per day. (Juveniles £8 with an adult in a £15 seat).

Christman, Odeon Leicester Sq. \$7.50-89. (Children £4-5). Odeon, Manchester: £4 (Children £2.70).

League mater at Blacapool 29,50 (Children 28). Standing 27.50 (Children 24). Family enclosure edult plus two children £10.50.

One delights but the other desires



Richard Williams

O ONE, it meant the chance of adding a final adornment to a career overstuffed with honless than his identity was at stake. And on that distinction depended the result of one of the best FA Cup semi-finals anybody can remember.

Is it too simple to say that Manchester United beat Chelea because Eric Cantona wanted the victory more than Ruud Gullit did? I don't think so. Which is no criticism of the loser, because the difference between them was not one of question of significance, Gullit is a very welcome vis-itor to English football, but he is now playing on the pitches where Cantona rediscovered his talent and his appetite for the game, where his fulfilment began. And where he endured,

without self-pity, a singularly horrible ordeal. England and its football mean something unique in Cantona's life. He may have

come here four years ago with a shrug in his shoulders, but he will not be leaving that way. Meanwhile he guards his eminence with a pride that was clear in every moment at Villa Park.

"I know that the game is not going to be resolved by two players only," Gullit had said last week when asked about their appearance on the same pitch, trying to play down the hype. He was wrong. Billed as the day's central characters, Gullit and Cantona were the heart and soul of their teams. tue. The whole unflagging narrative was built around them. In Steve Bruce's absence, Cantons again took over the captaincy of United. This might appear a strange decision to those seeing only an aloof, remote figure who has held himself incommunicado since the events of January 25 1995. Even before that, Cantona gave the impression of being a loner. Kevin Sharp, who played with him at Aux-erre and Leeds, once described a man "always on his own, reading a book or staring out of the window".

But his moment of indiscre-tion at Selhurst Park also cost him the captaincy of the French national team, and in

that context his friend Gerard Houllier, now the technical di rector of the French football ederation, spoke of a captain who "went from room to room, playing cards, listening to music . . . he wasn't just hidden away in his corner. And he was very helpful with the younger players. The image is of an individualist, but he's totally the opposite of that, believe me. He's very concerned with collective play and collective work. He's not a

selfish player." Selfish, no. Proud? To a fault. And let us not forget that Cantona has won nothing since the double of 1993-94. His return from that eight-month suspension will not be com-plete until there is something new in the trophy cabinet to prove that he is every bit the player he was before, and maybe something more

The destiny of this year's championship is out of his hands: no matter how many matches his goals decide in United's favour, the title is Newcastle's to win or lose. But the FA Cup is there for whoever brings to it the greatest desire, and that is what we

Early in the game, he made several uncharacteristic misinkes. Short passes were misplaced, longer ones mistimed. And that, paradoxically, was the evidence of his keenness: there at last were the signs of the nerves to which the stern face never admits.

IS limbs do not flow like Gullit's. He does not caress the ball with such gentleness that it seems to be made of fluff. His stiff, straight-backed carriage and his dancer's splayed feet are good subjects for caricature, but too individual for straightforward emulation. Yet his instinctive volley on to the post in the first half was a moment of magnificent virtuosity, balanced in the second period by a very differlast see such an example of commitment as his header off chel from the consequences of John Spencer's furious drive?

Come to that, who else would be shrewd and generous enough to realise that if poor Andy Cole were ever going to score again, he would need to be put in possession no more than a yard from the goal line, and even then presented with a ball already on its way into the net?

Rund Gullit added to our fond memories of his illustrious skills on Sunday. He can stay as long as he likes. But, for Eric Cantona, England has another meaning. This is where he lives.

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Southgate blow for Venables

"MO defenders England hope will figure in this summer's Ruropean plans. Championship face a fight to convince the coach Terry Venables of their fitness. Southgate may miss the rest of the season with dam-aged knee ligaments, and Gary Pallister of Manchester United may not be fit be fore the PA Cup final on May 11, a month before England's opening game

against Switzerland. The versatile, 25-year-old Southgate hopes to be fit for Euro '96. After being injured in the FA Cup semifinal against Liverpool on Sunday he said: "There are only five weeks left of the season and it is not looking very optimistic in terms of playing again. That would be a major blow with Euro

'96 coming up."
Pallister has missed Unitback problem and Venables | Southgate . . . still hoping



United's manager Alex

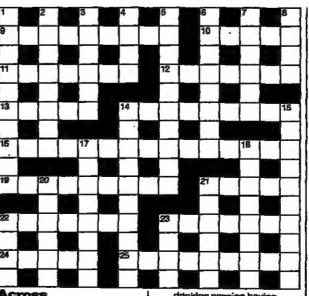


French multi-media artist Orlan will begin the final stage of her ten Year Project, The Reincarnation Of Saint Orlan. Surgeons will construct the largest nose her face is capable of holding.

Louise Gray G2 page 8

Guardian Crossword No 20,616

Set by Paul TS Studic? Then call our solutions line on 0691 338 238. Calls or per min. chaup rate, 49p per min at all other times. Service supplied



9 Language of Spain near to

10,21 dr. Castle wrote, perhaps, for convenience? (5,6)

11 It sounds rough in Greater

12 Fish finger without heeitation passed round — it's sensationall (7) 13 Military framework in America, dreadful (5)

14 The magnitude of generosity around the north-east (9) 15 Holst: "With Geres (and Saturn (poles apart)), I com-posed The Planets' (10.5)

19 Model paid zero for stripping, 21 It's urban, either way (5)

22 Whacking my French m (being unqualified) (7) 23 Awakening, the start of

been forgotten (7) 24 I haven't a clue for 'horse'

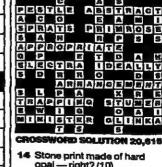
25 The heart of Japan without staple diet? How wonder-fully absurd! (9) Down

 Former Yugoslavian corroborates alternative Without an alternative (5-5) 2 Scattered barley, potatoes, etc. rotated around year one

3 Oxford and Cembridge, it's said, progress smoothly (6)

4 Catchpole in drag (4) 5,6 Dogs and birds as speakers (7,3,8) 7 Priest wears a mark of

authority (6) 8 Unpleasant discovery in



opal — right? (10) 15 Graf losing initially in strategic game, and stunned (10) 17 One's charged with having to choose Reagan (8)

18 I made my bed around five and got dressed (8) 20 Feeling sleepy? Head off for the shade (6) 21 see 10ac.

22 Manufactured in 11 East (4) 23 Desirous of Michelangelo's work, though not at first (4)

الميكنا من الاجل